# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-198
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15 October 1993

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## Arab-Israeli Talks

### Sha'th Views Committee Meeting in Taba

*NC1410090093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings, in Taba, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] We welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

[Husayn] The Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings, which started yesterday, undoubtedly acquire special importance after the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting in Cairo to implement the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles. What did you discuss during the committee meetings yesterday, and how were the discussions conducted?

[Sha'th] Naturally, these meetings usually start by defining the organizational bases of the activities of the Committee and negotiations. We agree upon the agenda, the way discussions will take place, the committees that will be formed, the way we will address the minutes of the meetings, and the way we will address the media. All these issues, which usually take very long, were finalized last night. Today, we start discussions to agree upon the agenda that will govern these meetings. We reached agreement in principle yesterday on this agenda. I imagine we will agree upon the full agenda today.

[Husayn] Could you shed some light on some of the most important issues on the agenda of the Committee's meetings?

[Sha'th] This Committee negotiates the details concerning Gaza-Jericho in the declaration of principles. It will discuss and agree upon the final agenda for the Israeli military forces' withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the partial withdrawal from the other West Bank towns and villages in what is called redeployment or repositioning. It will also discuss the Palestinian security forces that will take over the Israeli forces' positions in Gaza and Jericho and elsewhere. It will also discuss how to transfer authority from the Israeli military and civilian rule to the Palestinian national authority, which will be set up in Gaza and Jericho first. It will discuss aspects dealing with the control of the entrances or crossing points between Palestine and Egypt and between Palestine and Jordan. It will discuss the international presence that will support the Palestinian authority when it takes over power and the Israeli forces withdraw. It will discuss the return of the Palestinian refugees. Another important topic has been added, namely, the immediate and gradual release of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees held by the Israeli authorities.

[Husayn] Did you find Israel responsive to the topics being discussed?

[Sha'th] The first day, we found a great response and readiness for quick work to achieve things. Naturally, we prepared to negotiate with goodwill. I believe that if this response continues, we can finalize all the issues within the two months specified in the agreement.

[Husayn] Are you really prepared to take over the self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho?

[Sha'th] Naturally, we are prepared to recover every inch of our territory and to establish Palestinian national authority there.

[Husayn] Do you believe the opposition that recently issued a statement will pose a problem for you when you start exercising the Palestinian self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho?

[Sha'th] Observers of the situation in our occupied Palestinian territory have noticed that the Palestinian opposition at home is behaving democratically. There is no struggle on the ground in Gaza, Jericho, or elsewhere. We welcome any political dialogue and democratic expression of opposition. I perceive no problem in people expressing their opposition views as long as there is no clash on the ground and there is respect for the decision of the majority and of the Palestinian authority.

[Husayn] Even as far as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is concerned?

[Sha'th] Even as far as Hamas is concerned. There has been no attempt by Hamas to clash with any other Palestinian force or to turn political dialogue and struggle into any form of Palestinian infighting or struggle.

[Husayn] You referred to the Palestinians inside the occupied Arab territories, while there is a Palestinian opposition abroad. What is your view?

[Sha'th] The real, serious opposition is that which exists in the occupied territories. The Palestinian intifadah, which started in the occupied territories, achieved our current political gains. The real opposition exists there. The opposition abroad, especially that outside the framework of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and the PLO Central Council, is not a real, serious opposition and is not based on a real popular base.

[Husayn] You mentioned the meetings of the PLO Central Council. There are many reports about these meetings. Some say Hani al-Hasan was prevented from attending the meetings. Other reports mention differences between president Yasir 'Arafat and his political adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif. 'Atallah 'Attallah has reportedly been summoned from Paris. Can you brief us on these events?

[Sha'th] Discussing individuals' problems is not as important as discussing the trends and views of political blocs. Some brothers in Fatah oppose Fatah's official

stance. As long as this opposition is within the Fatah framework, this is their full right and democratic duty. But when the Fatah Central Committee adheres to a particular decision, all members must adhere to it and express it in the Palestinian councils. So, the Fatah delegation to the PNC can be recomposed. This is the Fatah's right according to the resolutions and bylaws of the PLO Central Council. Members, like brother Hani al-Hasan, do not represent themselves. They were never elected to represent themselves. Fatah chose them to represent it in the PNC. If they are not prepared to adhere to Fatah decisions, other Fatah members must replace them in the PNC. This does not mean they can't attend the PNC meetings or return to the PNC if they decide again to adhere to Fatah decisions. I don't believe there is a problem. This is part of democracy. Individuals may differ. But if they don't adhere to their party's decisions, they must step aside.

[Husayn] The Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings have been accompanied by meetings of the Liaison Committee in Cairo and the Refugee Committee in Tunis. Do these meetings represent positive and constructive steps toward implementing the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles?

[Sha'th] Yes, undoubtedly, these meetings reflect a real desire to achieve quick results to implement the declaration of principles. So, we held a meeting in Cairo yesterday. The Palestinian delegation was headed by brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and the Israeli delegation was headed by Peres. The meeting laid the bases that govern the work of the other committees. It also discussed the release of Palestinian prisoners. The same day, we began the Taba talks on Gaza and Jericho. These talks reflect a real desire to implement the agreement as soon as possible.

[Husayn] Undoubtedly, the meetings of two committees in Cairo and Taba are significant. What is their significance?

[Sha'th] Their significance lies in Egypt's importance in all this work. Doubtless, Egypt, which has stood with the Palestinians in war and peace, plays a key role in achieving the Palestinian people's rights and in establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Arab region. The core of this peace is the Palestinian issue. Here, in Taba, we feel not only Egypt's moral support for Palestine, but also Egypt's real hospitality in offering all these places as venues for these important talks.

## Sha'th on Talks on Detainees

*NC1410153393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Taba, 14 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation in the Gaza-Jericho committee meeting in Taba, has confirmed that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations agreed during the two working sessions held yesterday and today on the committee's agenda and on the formation of ad hoc committees.

In a statement today, Dr. Sha'th said that the committee responsible for discussing the issue of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons will meet later today to discuss the release of Palestinian prisoners. He added that there are about 13,000 Palestinian political detainees in Israeli prisons. He explained that the two sides have agreed to discuss this issue and the issue of the return of Palestinian deportees as part of confidence-building measures so the Palestinians will realize the positive results of the Gaza-Jericho agreement as soon as possible.

Answering a question about the objection which Israel made earlier about the presence of some Palestinian delegation members, Dr. Sha'th said that all are working in good spirits and with a firm desire to achieve the peace that is sought by everyone. He added that there is no blacklist, and every side forms its delegation in the way that suits it best.

Dr. Sha'th praised Egypt's role in supporting the peace process and in providing all assistance to the Palestinian side. He noted that the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations includes Major General Ahmad Fakhr, an Egyptian expert who has joined the Palestinian delegation as an adviser.

## Israeli Spokesman Confirms Detainees on Agenda

*NC1410123393 Paris AFP in English 1127 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[By Sammy Ketz and Lamia Radi]

[Text] Taba, Egypt, Oct 14 (AFP) - Israel and the PLO buckled down to their autonomy negotiations here Thursday [14 October] saying the fate of 12,000 Palestinian prisoners was at the top of the agenda.

"We are going to start the talks with the question of prisoners," said Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations on implementing self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Israeli army spokesman Avraham Benyahu confirmed that the prisoners were on the agenda, "but I doubt if we will solve this immediately," he told reporters.

An ad hoc committee must be set up to sort out the problem, said PLO delegate Hasan 'Asfur, who led the secret negotiations in Norway which produced the September 13 autonomy agreement.

Israeli sources said 8,400 of the prisoners "do not have blood on their hands", while 1,200 have killed suspected Palestinian collaborators, and 1,200 others have either killed or wounded Israelis.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross about 12,500 Palestinians are in Israeli jails.

The talks at this Egyptian Red Sea resort were launched Wednesday, the same day as the agreement came into effect, with both sides agreeing to "give priority" to prisoners.

Their relatives have demonstrated daily in the territories since the agreement was signed, claiming it is unjust for their kin to remain under lock and key, particularly since PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has halted military operations against Israel.

The Israeli army has drawn up outline plans for the release of thousands of prisoners, the HA'ARETZ newspaper reported Thursday.

The daily has obtained a military blueprint of the recommendations which call for the closure of detention centres, prisons and camps.

The army states that 500-600 Palestinians considered "dangerous" should not be freed but transferred to a new high security facility while six prisons in the occupied territories should be closed. A military source told the newspaper that they committed serious crimes ranging from murder to bombings and stabbings.

The army plan calls first for common law criminals to be handed over to the Palestinian police force.

Then Palestinians who threw stones or firebombs during the intifadah or uprising but injured no Israelis would be released.

Members of "terrorist" organizations, but who were not involved in any attacks, would be freed in the third stage followed by "administrative" detainees, or those who have not been tried, from the tent prison at Ketziot in the Negev desert.

Those considered as Palestinian "leaders", such as Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, spiritual head of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, would be the last to go free. Yasin, arrested in May 1989, and sentenced to life in prison for ordering murders.

Benyahu said the agenda for the implementation negotiations, which are to be concluded before the Israeli army withdrawal begins on December 13, was also to be finalized.

"We don't want to limit ourselves to putting down titles for chapters. We want an extremely detailed agenda encompassing the maximum number of topics," 'Asfur added.

Sha'th and head of the Israei delegation deputy chief of staff General Amnon Shahaq anounced Wednesday they had set a timetable for the negotiations.

They also agreed to form two sub-committees, one dealing with security and the other on the transfer of responsibility for health, education, tourism, social welfare, tourism and direct taxation to the Palestinians.

The talks, in a relaxed atmosphere at a seafront resort hotel, are set to break off Thursday evening and resume next Wednesday and Thursday. One delegate told reporters the two sides, who had a cocktail party Wendesday night, are already on first-name terms.

A four-day session will be held the following week.

## Taba Delegations Agree on 'Secret' Agenda

*TA1410165093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Report from Taba by army affairs correspondent Net-an'el Semrik—live]

[Text] The news conference held at the end of today's session ended a short while ago. The main confirmed piece of news is that Israel and the PLO this evening for the first time began discussing the issue of releasing the detainee prisoners. The discussion was held by the subcommittee on confidence-building measures, which was set up here this evening. Discussions on this issue will continue next week.

The agenda for the talks has been agreed on and approved, but it will remain secret at this stage, said Major General 'Uzi Dayan, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Planning Branch, and deputy head of the Israeli delegation. It is reasonable to assume that issues such as the security of the Israeli citizens, the Jewish settlements, and cooperation with the Palestinian police feature on the agreed upon and approved agenda.

Gen. Dayan said at the news conference: The political echelons demonstrated courage, we need the courage of the people of Israel. If all this happens, I believe God will bless Israel with peace. Here are some of the remarks Gen. Dayan made at the news conference earlier today:

[Begin Dayan recording, in English] We came here to work. Not only to talk, but to work. We came here, actually, to do business, and we started. We came here to make friends, and I hope this can show that we already started to be friends. And finally, I hope and wish that we'll make peace. Thank you. [end recording]

Standing next to 'Uzi Dayan at the news conference was General Nasri Yusuf, head of the Palestinian delegation security committee, who had served as a brigade commander in the Palestine Liberation Army.

The talks here have ended. The Palestinian delegates will leave for Tunis, Cairo, or the territories. The Israeli delegation will return to Army headquarters in Tel Aviv or the government offices in Jerusalem. Next Wednesday, the Taba talks on the establishment of autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho area will resume.

## 2 Committees Set Up on Military, Social Issues

*NC1410135993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1139 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Taba, 14 Oct (MENA)—The Gaza-Jericho Committee resumed its meetings at the Taba Hilton Hotel today to discuss the topics on its agenda and to work out a plan of action to secure Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho in the next three months, in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September.

The problem that the Israeli side created yesterday has ceased to be a problem. Israel yesterday objected to the presence and demanded the exclusion of two members of the Palestinian delegation. Israel objected to Colonel Amin al-Hindi, a military adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, claiming that he was among the group that attacked Israel's Olympic team in Munich in 1972; and Jerusalem resident Khalil Tufakji, on the grounds that residents of Jerusalem should not participate in these meetings. Both delegates were seen today among the Palestinian delegates attending the meeting.

Informed Palestinian sources stated that at the outset of today's meeting, the two sides agreed to set up two committees. The first will deal with military and security problems related to the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and Jericho and their replacement by Palestinian forces. The second committee will deal with population, housing, education, health, water, environment, and other people-related issues.

MENA has learned that determining the number of Palestinian prisoners inside Israeli prisons who will be released as part of the agreement is one of the main problems facing the Gaza-Jericho Committee. While the Israelis say this number does not exceed 6,500, the Palestinians say there are no fewer than 22,000 prisoners.

A well-informed Palestinian source said that the PLO possesses documents specifying the number and date of detention of the Palestinian prisoners. He noted that some Palestinians who had entered Israel from abroad with instructions to carry out anti-Israel operations were captured, and the Israeli authorities are trying to hide them. The source added that the Palestinian side to the committee will try hard to secure the release of all Palestinian prisoners. He stressed that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories want to see the fruits of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, namely, the release of their fellow citizens detained in prisons and the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from Gaza and Jericho, to be replaced by the Palestinian authority.

David Kiryazman [name as received], spokesman for the Israeli delegation, said that the talks held yesterday and today were marked by an atmosphere of optimism and understanding between the two sides. He added that today's meeting sought to set up the general framework for future committee work and to name the committees that will discuss the various aspects for the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The committee meeting was adjourned for a short break two hours after it began. Members of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations left the conference room. The heads of the two delegations stayed for a closed meeting to discuss some issues related to the committee's work. The committee is scheduled to meet again later today.

## Gaza-Jericho Committee Ends Meeting

*NC1410195493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1836 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Taba, 14 Oct (MENA)—The Gaza-Jericho Committee ended its meetings this evening and decided to hold its next meeting in Taba on Wednesday [20 October] under the chairmanship of Dr. Nabil Sha'th, President 'Arafat's adviser, and General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff.

The Palestinian and Israeli sides issued a joint statement at the end of their meetings. They emphasized the importance of adopting confidence-building measures in the context of the bilateral accord and the release of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails as a positive step toward peace. The two sides said the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere to complete the discussion of the agenda's topics.

The statement said the Prisoners Committee held its first meeting today under the chairmanship of Brigadier General Nasri Yusuf, 'Arafat's military adviser, and General 'Uzi Dayan, head of the Israeli Army's Planning Branch, to discuss the status and release of the detainees and repatriation of the deportees.

The cochairmen of the Prisoners Committee gave a two-hour joint news conference at the end of the committee's meeting in which they expressed satisfaction at the meeting.

'Arafat's military adviser said: We completed the agenda and next week we will discuss the issues agreed upon. He added: We met as chairmen of the security and detainees committees and the committee will resume its work next week.

'Uzi Dayan said: We discussed security measures, the Israeli forces withdrawal from Gaza, and a quiet transfer of authority to the Palestinian forces. Noting that existing problems cannot be solved overnight, he said: We have come here to work not to talk and we will work to be friends.

Brig. Gen. Nasri Yusuf said: We will work for ourselves, for our children, and for the next generations. Naturally, if we consolidate the confidence measures and respect each other, we will reach something, without doubt.

General Dayan was asked whether the Israeli authorities will release the Palestinian detainees soon. He replied: We have begun the first step toward peace, and the two sides' political leadership encourage peace.

Nasri Yusuf and 'Uzi Dayan shook hands before reporters at the end of the news conference.

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Banned' PCC Aide on Hostility to Agreement

*PM1410135193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Oct 93 p 3*

[Unattributed report: "Hani al-Hasan Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: They Told Me I Was Banned From Central Council Meeting To Prevent Tension"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Fatah Central Committee Member Hani al-Hasan was prevented from attending the Palestine Central Council [PCC] meeting in Tunis even though he was at the venue. A senior PLO official contacted him and asked him to say that he did not wish to attend the meeting "because your presence and the possibility that you might speak have caused some tension." Al-Hasan replied that he reserved his right to participate but that if there was a decision that he should not, which would mean that he would not be given a "security pass," then he would not be able to participate.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT al-Hasan said that by Sunday [10 October] evening he still had not received the pass without which nobody could enter because of stringent security measures. He added that, constitutionally, the PLO could take such steps but that he was, noticeably, the only one prevented from entering. Other opposition members, he said, such as 'Abbas Zaki and Sakhr Habash were allowed entry. Al-Hasan insists that the PCC is not empowered to discuss the "Gaza-Jericho First" agreement and that the Palestine National Council [PNC] should be convened. He said that many had come from the occupied territory and Jordan [for the PCC meeting] and that the money paid for their travel tickets could have been used for the PNC. He also said that "the excuse that there were no available funds is not true."

Justifying his opposition to the "Gaza-Jericho First" agreement, al-Hasan says that nowhere in the agreement is there a stipulation that Israel has accepted the principle of withdrawal from the West Bank and that, therefore, the territorial issue in the negotiations for a final settlement will be an issue of disputed territory not occupied territory, which is a serious matter. Accepting the agreement, he adds, means recognizing Israel's right to exist, stopping the intifadah, and giving public opinion the impression that Israel wants peace. He also believes that in five years' time the balances of power will not be any better than they are now and, therefore, the territory will be partitioned and the occupation will not end in all areas. In al-Hasan's view, the Palestinian people should say the territory comes first. He notes that the majority of the Palestinian people reject the idea that we should have a state on any part of the territory and believe that the state should be set up on every inch of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem.

Al-Hasan notes that there is nothing transitional in the measures under the agreement and that, in the economic agreement, Israel dictated its view, unlike the Camp David agreement, maintaining that normalization comes first ahead of a political solution.

He also points out that the agreement is based on a merger of the Palestinian and Israeli economies and that if such a merger is carried out within five years it would mean that there would be no territorial disengagement, and that would consequently mean some kind of a federation between the state of Israel and the Palestinian entity, which is what Israel wants in order to be able to keep the Israeli Army in the West Bank under the name of the federation.

Al-Hasan says that the texts should be read with the future in mind and with the future balances of power in mind. He calls for a popular referendum on the "Gaza-Jericho first" agreement, provided the agreement is explained as it really is and provided there is an end to "the deliberately misleading campaign claiming things that are not in fact in the agreement." He says, for instance, that [PLO Executive Committee Member] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh had said that 700,000 of the 1967 Palestinian refugees would return to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but a few days ago Yitzhaq Rabin said in Cairo: "That is nonsense. We are talking about tens of thousands not hundreds of thousands."

Al-Hasan adds that they claimed at the beginning that the agreement covered the Jericho district, that is, an area of 240 square kilometers, but in Cairo Rabin only spoke of the town of Jericho.

Another example, he says, is that they claim that [the Palestinians of] Jerusalem would elect and be elected, but the question is this: Can any Palestinian citizen of Jerusalem be a candidate for Jerusalem or for some other town outside Jerusalem? Al-Hasan says that it has not been decided yet whether he would be a candidate for Jerusalem. He adds that if a Jerusalem resident runs as a candidate representing another town, he would be admitting that Jerusalem is not Arab.

He claims that the discussions are about the Palestinian "aliens" living in Jerusalem, not about sovereignty over Jerusalem or Palestinian responsibility for anything. He says that it is wrong to accept that approach because discussions should now only focus on the people's living conditions.

Will the agreement lead to a Palestinian state? Al-Hasan says that the more important question is: Will the Israelis withdraw completely from the West Bank or not, and will there be a withdrawal from Arab Jerusalem? He says Israel is willing to allow a state on 2,000 square kilometers but the area of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is 7,000 square kilometers. So far Israel has only given up 400 square kilometers. He claims that during the autonomy negotiations Faysal al-Husayni was offered about 4,000 square kilometers. He gives priority to the territory and what would happen to it. Al-Hasan says that "When Israel withdraws from the territory then Palestinian sovereignty and right of self-determination should be restored and then a state would be set up, but

for Israel to give us 2,000 square kilometers and say that is your state, that would be just an illusion and would be a principality like Monaco with no sovereignty and with subservience to Israel."

### Habash Reaffirms Commitment to 'Armed Struggle'

*PM1410145693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Oct 93 p 5*

[Unattributed report: "Habash Tells AL-HAYAH: We Are Ready For Any Attack From Palestinian Police"]

[Text] Damascus—George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has stressed that he will continue "the fight and armed struggle" against Israel. He pointed out that he is ready to defend himself "if the Palestinian police force attacks us." He told AL-HAYAH that the 10 factions [opposed to the peace process] "have not forgotten the issue of setting up an alternative organization [to the PLO]," but they have agreed to "confront the agreement by rebuilding the PLO on the basis of the national charter and program," transcending differences among themselves.

He said that President Yasir 'Arafat has become an "ally" of Israel and that the Gaza-Jericho agreement does not fulfill the demands of the Palestinian revolution, "which was launched on the basis of self-determination and the return. Nor does the agreement solve the problem of the 4.5 million Palestinian refugees. Nor does it say anything about self-determination, the return, or the settlements, and it has harmed Arab coordination."

On the measures agreed by the the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to the agreement during their meeting in Damascus last week, Habash said: "We will first explain the danger of the agreement. We will tell the people that what the capitulating leadership is talking about are delusions."

He added that the 10 factions "have raised the slogan of establishing a democratic Islamic national front to resist this plan. They want to rebuild the PLO on the basis of the charter and the program on a democratic basis." This will happen through the conferences which will be held where Palestinians exist "in order to establish a new PLO." He stressed the escalation of the intifadah in reply to the agreement.

He pointed out that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral negotiations, "tried to persuade me to participate in the Central Council meetings, but my response was two military operations near the Nahariyya settlement and in Jericho."

On the fears over the future of inter-Palestinian relations inside the occupied territories, Habash said: "We want to continue the fight against Israel, and if any Palestinian party attacks us, we are ready to defend ourselves. We will tell the people that 'Arafat has become an ally for Israel against the intifadah."

Habash denied reliance on a country with regard to financial matters. He said: "We rely on ourselves and on the masses." He pointed out that the PFLP has not received any allocations from the PLO for 10 months.

He pointed to the "ideological differences" among the 10 factions opposed to the peace process, but stressed that they have in the end agreed to "confront the agreement."

## Algeria

### Former TV Director General Assassinated

*LD1410163893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Minister of Communications Mohamed Merzoug has condemned the assassination of Mustapha Abada, former director general of television, today at Ain Taya, near the capital.

In his statement the minister stressed that the time has come for all Algerians to form a united front against the threat of the right to live.

The reaction of the Association of Algerian Journalists took the form of a reminder, which states that the assassination of Abada is not the first loss in the ranks of journalists.

### Imam Killed in Boumerdes Province

*LD1510073893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Oct 93*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The hands of terrorism were also extended to the imam of Thenia town mosque, in Boumerdes province. Omar Arrar was assassinated the day before yesterday by a terrorist carrying a submachine gun. His son was seriously wounded. The imam was father to 13 children.

### Prime Minister on Measures Against 'Terrorism'

*LD1410162593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Report on studio interview with Redha Malek, prime minister and member of the Higher State Council, during the "El Mir'aat" radio news program on 14 October; including recorded excerpts of Malek's remarks]

[Text: [Correspondent] In his first press interview to the national media, Redha Malek, Higher State Council [HCE] member and prime minister, announced the government's determination to eradicate the roots of terrorism, because it is a barbaric phenomenon that has distorted Algeria's image and made civilians anxious. He announced measures and new decrees to protect property and persons. At the same time, he said the government has great capabilities that it has not yet used to eradicate terrorism.

[Malek] The HCE is determined to restore the state's authority and the country's stability by fighting terrorism and condemning the various forms of violence. That is an unretractable position. We have undertaken strict security measures to protect civilians and the government's institutions from sabotage. Some security measures have been taken, and others are on the way. But all this alone is not enough. If all sectors of the society do not take responsibility, the government will stand in that field. There are decrees that we have taken in the recent period to bolster security means, particularly to protect industrial and other institutions. That is on the way to being implemented. In that framework, we call on all civilians who work in these institutions to perform their duties because the government will provide them with capabilities and means. But we ask them to be more vigilant and to have national awareness because it is a national problem, requiring national awareness, high national awareness.

There is control. Control is present, although in the last period there was a kind of escalation in this field, but control is present and that control will continue. There are capabilities that the state has not used until now, which it can use in the near future because the state's preoccupation and concern is the eradication of this barbaric phenomenon.

[Correspondent] The prime minister called on civilians to perform their duties to achieve national awareness. Redha Malek also gave important clarifications on the national dialogue for which preparations are being made. Redha Malek made it clear that the committee appointed to prepare for the national dialogue, and which was formed yesterday by the HCE, is of major importance and will enable all parties to enter into a dialogue with it to prepare for the national concord conference. On the consensus concept, he clarified it by saying:

[Malek] We are talking about a concord or consensus. The word reconciliation has become ambiguous. That is why I do not use it.

[Correspondent] The prime minister reaffirmed the HCE's stance that the dialogue will include everyone. The HCE member did not announce a specific date for holding the national conference, but he expressed his hopes that matters will move at a quicker pace so that the national dialogue will crown national concord.

[Malek] The HCE is trying to work with seriousness because sometimes, some parties have said that we are talking only with this institution or that institution—that is garbage. Now, matters must be clarified, and we have decided to give these parties this opportunity, really a big opportunity, to take the initiative and enter into this dialogue in a constructive way. We have to enter into a constructive dialogue. That process will make the transitional period easier for us.

## Egypt

### Mubarak Issues Decree Forming New Cabinet

*NC1410134893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has issued the following presidential decree forming the new government:

The president of the Republic, after taking cognizance of the Constitution, has decided:

Article one: Dr. 'Atif Muhammad Najib Sidqi is appointed prime minister and minister of international cooperation.

Article two: Dr. Kamal Ahmad al-Janzuri is appointed deputy prime minister and minister of planning.
Dr. Yusuf Amin Wali is appointed deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, livestock and fisheries, and land reclamation.
Article three: Amal 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Uthman is appointed minister of insurance and social affairs.
Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli Sulayman is appointed minister of transport, communications, and civil aviation.
Engineer Muhammad Mahir 'Uthman Abazah is appointed minister of electricity and energy.
Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi Sulayman is appointed minister of defense and war production.
Muhammad Safwat al-Sharif is appointed information minister.
'Amr Mahmud Musa is appointed foreign minister.
Dr. 'Atif Muhammad Muhammad 'Ubayd is appointed minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development and environment affairs.
Dr. Muhammad Jalal-al-Din Abu-al-Dhahab is appointed minister of supply and internal trade.
Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Razzaz is appointed minister of finance.
Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub is appointed minister of awqaf.
Counselor Faruq Mahmud Sayf-al-Nasr is appointed justice minister.
Faruq 'Abd-al-'Aziz Husni is appointed culture minister.
Counselor Ahmad Radwan Jum'ah Mansur is appointed minister of cabinet affairs and follow-up.
Dr. Mahmud Sayyid Ahmad Sharif is appointed minister of local administration.
Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din is appointed minister of education.
Dr. Hamdi 'Ali 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Banbi is appointed petroleum minister.
Hasan Muhammad al-Alfi is appointed interior minister.
Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali is appointed minister of state in the cabinet for international cooperation affairs.
Dr. Mahir Mahran Ahmad Mahran is appointed minister of state for population and family affairs.
Engineer Muhammad Salah al-Din Hasaballah is appointed minister of housing and utilities.
Kamal Muhammad al-Shadhili is appointed minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs.
Dr. Mamduh Ahmad al-Biltaji is appointed tourism minister.
Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud Bayyumi is appointed minister of economy and foreign trade.
Engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi 'Abd-al-Majid Radi is appointed minister of public work and water resources.
Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Makhzanji is appointed health minister.
Dr. Muhammad Zaki Abu-'Amir is appointed minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs.
Dr. Engineer Ibrahim Fawzi 'Abd-al-Wahid is appointed minister of industry and mineral resources.
Dr. Engineer Muhammad Ibrahim Sulayman is appointed minister of state for the new urban communities.
Dr. Venice Kamil Judah is appointed minister of state for scientific research affairs.
Dr. Engineer Muhammad al-Ghamrawi Dawud Hasan is appointed minister of state for war production.
Ahmad Ahmad al-'Amawi is appointed minister of manpower and employment.

Article four: This decree will be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the presidential office on 27 Rabi' Akhir of the hegira year 1414, corresponding to 14 October 1993.

## Sidqi Named al-Azhar Minister

*NC1410151793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today issued a presidential decree making Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi the minister responsible for al-Azhar affairs.

The decree was issued after taking cognizance of the Constitution, Law No. 103 for 1961, regarding the reorganization of al-Azhar and its institutions, and the president's Decree No. 380 for 1993 issued today regarding the formation of the new cabinet.

## New Cabinet Sworn In; First Meeting Held

*NC1410150093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1408 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—The new cabinet held its first meeting at noon today at the presidential palace in Heliopolis under President Husni Mubarak. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and all the cabinet members, who earlier took the constitutional oath before President Mubarak.

## Mubarak Urged To Implement Islamic Shari'ah

*NC1410113093 Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 6 Oct 93 p 10*

[Article by 'Ali Faruq: "Congratulations to President Mubarak, But!"]

[Text] It is our duty to congratulate President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the great confidence he received from the Egyptian majority and for his election to a third presidential term.

But the question is: What is required of the president during the third term?

We call on the president to try to apply the rules of the Islamic shari'ah in Egypt; it was not implemented during his first two terms.

We have tried all the systems and theories derived from the East and West, and the result was that things went from bad to worse for the Egyptian people, who are now in a sorry state.

We tried the communist system under Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and the result was successive defeats and the spread of theft and looting of the people's resources by gangs claiming they are "revolutionary" with the objective of making Egypt a great power. The truth was that Egypt then became a "defeated" and "occupied" country.

We also tried the capitalist system under Anwar al-Sadat and Husni Mubarak; the resu't was corruption traveling through every sector and the unprecedented spread of bribery and exploitation of influence. Things got worse for the people, and more young people became unemployed. Ugly crimes hitherto unknown in Egyptian society also spread. Egypt witnessed unprecedented terrorist actions, and the danger from terrorism still threatens us all. So, every system in the past 40 years has proven its miserable failure and inability to raise standards for the Egyptian people.

The question everyone is asking is: Why don't we apply Islamic shari'ah, which has all the solutions to our problems? Why do we turn our backs on the heavenly laws and uphold temporal laws and systems? Why don't we give Islamic shari'ah a chance after giving the other systems a chance?

More than one referendum conducted by government institutions, including the specialized national councils, revealed that most Egyptians demand the application of Islamic shari'ah. Why don't we respond to and implement the people's demands?

President Mubarak is called upon to implement the people's demands after they gave him their confidence and elected him for a third term. The first demand is to implement Islamic shari'ah. Will the president respond? We are waiting!

## Court Sentences 2 to Death; Others Imprisoned

*NC1410130893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Alexandria, 14 Oct (MENA)—The Higher Military Court in Alexandria today unanimously sentenced to death Muhammad Ahmad Mahmud and Hisham Taha Ahmad, the first and second defendants in Case Number 20, military crime, 1993, in which 19 defendants are on trial. Three defendants remain at large.

The same court sentenced the third defendant, 'Abd al-Salam Shawqi 'Abd-al-Salam, to life at hard labor. The court also sentenced the fourth defendant, 'Ali Muhammad Shihatah, and the 17th defendant, Muhammad 'Ali al-Sayyid to 15 years at hard labor.

The court sentenced the fifth defendant, Ahmad Ahmad 'Atiyah, and the ninth, Hisham 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sulayman, to 10 years at hard labor. Sentenced in absentia to seven years were 12th defendant Ashraf Muhammad 'Abd-al-Salam and 19th defendant Ashraf 'Abd-al- Mu'ti 'Abd-al-Ghaffar. The seventh defendant Isma'il Muhammad 'Abdallah was sentenced to three years at hard labor.

The Higher Military Court handed down a seven-year sentence with hard labor against sixth defendant Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Azim 'Abdallah and sentenced 10th defendant Hani 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Abd-al-'Aziz and 16th defendant Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Alim Mustafa to five years at hard labor.

The court sentenced the eighth defendant, Sami al-Shinnawi Salih, to three years. It also sentenced 18th defendant Usamah Muhammad Zaki to one year and fined him five pounds [as received].

The court acquitted the 11th defendant, Khayr Muhammad Ahmad, and the 13th, 14th, and 15th defendants, Muhammad Mustafa Hasan, Samih Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Al, and Husni 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Rasul.

## Foreign Minister, PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Meet

*NC1410122493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1137 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, who is visiting Cairo.

Speaking afterward, Abu-Mazin said they discussed the results of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee meeting in Cairo yesterday and the topics on the agenda of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, which will meet regularly in the next two months to secure the Israeli withdrawal. Abu-Mazin said they also discussed the work of the remaining committees, especially the tripartite Palestinian-Israeli-Jordanian-Egyptian Committee stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He stressed the need to hold preliminary consultations among the Arab parties before the committee's first meeting.

## UN's Butrus-Ghali in Cairo To Discuss Somalia

*NC1410175293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali arrived in Cairo this evening.

In an arrival statement Dr. Butrus-Ghali said the purpose of his visit to Egypt is to meet with President Husni Mubarak, chairman of the OAU. He said he will also meet with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid; Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization; and Salem Ahmad Salem, secretary general of the OAU.

Dr. Butrus-Ghali added that the meeting is designed to discuss the situation in Somalia and to get the assistance

of a number of states in the region to continue working for peace and development in Somalia. He added that he will also discuss some other issues pertaining to the African continent.

The UN secretary general said that he will leave Cairo tomorrow for Djibouti, Mauritius, Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia to discuss African issues. He said that regional organizations must assist in solving some of the African issues.

He noted that Somalia is a member of three regional organizations, which are the Arab League, the OAU, and Islamic Conference Organization. Therefore, we call on the three organizations to work for stability, peace, and development in Somalia.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1717 GMT on 14 October reports that "President Husni Mubarak this evening received at the presidential palace UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who arrived in Cairo earlier today. Dr. Butrus-Ghali will hold talks with President Mubarak regarding the Somali problem and the role of the United Nations and the OAU in solving this problem."]

## Saudi Arabia

### Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly

*LD1410161693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0215 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Excerpts] New York, 27/4/1414 AH, corresponding to 13 Oct 1993, [date as received] (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reiterated its continued eagerness that the Middle East region should take its legitimate share of security, peace, and stability, that all its capabilities should be directed toward development, and all its resources utilized for the welfare of its people. To achieve these desired objectives, it is incumbent upon the countries of the region to desist from producing or amassing any kind of weapons of mass destruction.

This came in the address of the Kingdom to the United Nations General Assembly in its 48th session, which was delivered today on behalf of the His Royal Highness the Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs, by the Kingdom's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Ja'far al-Laqani. [passage omitted]

Here is the text of the speech:

[Passage omitted] But now we are overwhelmed with sorrow and sadness for the failure of this order in confronting what the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a member of our international organization, has been exposed to. If this crisis is not dealt with in accordance with the basis, tenets, and principles of the New World Order, the order will lose its credibility and effectiveness. Therefore, we are requested today to develop the role shouldered by the United Nations from mere administration of crisis and peace-keeping to positive participation in making peace. [passage omitted]

Mr. President: The Declaration of Principles Agreement between the PLO and the Israeli Government, signed in Washington last 13 September, has stirred feelings of optimism that herald the possibility of reaching a just and lasting peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict, which has lasted for a long time. This development—despite its limitation of being a self-rule agreement in the occupied Palestinian territories, beginning with Gaza and Jericho—constitutes a step toward establishing a just and lasting peace between the Arabs and Israel. Naturally, settling the Palestinian issue will help achieve a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, as this issue is the core of this conflict. [passage omitted]

As we are witnessing today with the optimism resulting from the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement, we believe that it is incumbent upon the international community to go along with the progress that has been achieved on this path by providing the economic and development support necessary for setting up the administrative structures required to make the implementation of the self-rule agreement a success. At the same time, it is also incumbent upon us all to exert a lot of effort to make use of the impetus, which has been available by the progress of the peace process. [passage omitted]

The issue of the Syrian Arab Golan is a clear one. It is ruled by principles of respect of international borders. Maintaining security does not come, as facts from our modern history have shown, by seizing lands by force, but rather by consolidating the pillars of peace, which subsequently will lead to a mutual respect and development of good-neighborly relations. Therefore, achieving peace on this front requires a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan.

Similarly, the Lebanese-Israeli track is ruled by UN Security Council Resolution 425, which clearly and openly states the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the Lebanese territories.

Dear President: I would like to record the consideration of the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques for His Excellency President Clinton for the generous initiative to call for the convening of an international conference of donors with the aim of gathering political and financial support for the Palestinians at this stage when they are getting ready to undertake the tasks of managing their affairs in the occupied territories. This appreciation is also expressed for the hosting of this conference in Washington on 1 October, and I take this opportunity to praise the good results obtained by this conference. [passage omitted]

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia participated in the international conference of donors, which ended its proceedings in Washington, as the custodian of the two holy mosques honored me with the announcement of the Kingdom's commitment to provide generous development aid for improving the existing facilities and building new ones in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in cooperation and coordination with the World Bank in the framework of its special program in the occupied territories for the next five years. The Kingdom has also announced its readiness to contribute through the Saudi Development Fund a sum of 100 million American dollars during 1994, and this is out of the conviction of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with regard to the new yield of this aid at the level of improving the living conditions of our Palestinian brothers in the occupied Arab territories on one hand, and the good yield we expect it to have for the peace process itself on the other.

Dear President: The Lebanese Government has made big steps in the process of implementing the al-Ta'if Accord and in adopting the political and constitutional measures that are necessary for that. We must continue our support for the legitimate Lebanese efforts and contribute to the process of reconstruction of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

While we are talking about the Middle East region, we see fit to stress our eagerness with regard to the need for this region to obtain its legitimate share of security, peace, and stability and to direct all its resources toward

development and the prosperity of its peoples. In order to achieve these required aims, we must endeavor, and this comes within the most important duties, to eliminate the danger of the presence of mass-destruction weapons in the Middle East region. [passage omitted]

The failure of the Vance-Owen plan and the subsequent Geneva negotiations was the result of the weak stance of the European states in particular. The abandon of responsibilities by the international community toward the Serbian aggression encouraged the Croats to adopt the same behavior in order to obtain gains through coercion and force. The thing that is cause for amazement is that when Croatia was subjected to Serbian aggression, the European states, in particular, took the initiative to stand by the side of Croatia and helped it militarily. This contributed to the success of the international efforts in reaching a peaceful solution, whereas the international community adopted a weak stance toward Bosnia-Hercegovina, which led to the deprivation of this fledgling republic of its legitimate right to defend itself and the negligence in the implementation of the international legality with regard to imposing economic sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro. Those sanctions remained merely ink on paper and their serious implementation only began after events moved beyond the ability of these sanctions solving the problem and after the Serbs rejected the Vance-Owen plan, which was accepted by the Bosnians and the Croats.

What causes us to be amazed is that this war of aggression is taking place in European territory and history shows clearly that European wars have never been limited wars as any spark of war in Europe is an alarming indication that it would spread without limit and despite this, these irrefutable realities have been ignored.

As we hope that the history of European wars will not repeat itself, we hope that the solution offered now for approval will not lead to future wars and conflicts and that the international community will look seriously and rationally into the demands of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in a way that will enable Bosnia-Herzegovina to avoid being exposed in the future to the policies of aggression and ethnic cleansing, and a way that responds to the geographic demands of this young state by giving it access to the sea and means for the legitimate self-defense specified by the UN Charter.

Mr. President: Saudi Arabia has adopted a principled stand toward the Government and people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This stand stemmed from strict adherence and complete commitment to international legitimacy and from respect for the principles of international law. This stand was never the result of religious discrimination or sectarian sympathy. It was the same stand that Saudi Arabia adopted toward Kuwait when the latter was exposed to the aggression of the Iraqi regime. [passage omitted]

Among the other problems in the Asian regions are those regrettable developments that stemmed from the deterioration of the current conflict between two UN member countries, Azerbaijan and Armenia, which lately led to Armenia occupying some Azerbaijani territories. As we consider this occupation a violation of the principle of the non-permissibility of using force in settling conflicts, we emphasize the necessity of withdrawing the Armenian forces from the Azerbaijani territories and discussing the issue at the negotiating table in order to reach a just and peaceful settlement preserving the legitimate rights of the people of Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

Mr. President: Saudi Arabia was at the forefront of the Islamic countries associated with the declaration of human rights in Islam, which was issued by the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] on 13 Muharram 1411 AH corresponding to 4 August 1990 AD and was known as the Cairo declaration. Saudi Arabia considers this declaration as the tributary that provides the suitable groundwork for a positive and realistic international cooperation and that flows into the totality of securing the international support to human rights and liberties, particularly as the declaration was issued as an expression of the will of more than 1 billion people, which gives it by any standard an international character.

Even if the principles and aims on which the human rights are based are international by nature, their implementation requires taking into consideration every society and its circumstances, special characteristics, its various historical, cultural,, and religious backgrounds, and its legal system and not to hurry into constructing mechanisms and adopting institutional procedures that could deepen the disagreements and ignore the sensitivities that emerged during the UN human rights conference in Vienna.

Saudi Arabia is a developed society established on firm bases that were, and still are, the pillar of Islamic civilization. It is a society that starts today to face up to the modern challenges with confidence and commitment in a march of goodwill and reform supervised by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, and represented by the basic system of government, the consultative council system and the regional system. These are the systems according to which the state secures the protection of human rights according to the Islamic laws and regulates developed relations between the rulers and the subjects based on fraternity, consultation, loyalty, and cooperation.

It pleases me today to tell your esteemed assembly that the selection of the members of the consultative council and the regional councils has been completed, and the persistent preparations for these institutions to start practicing their duties for serving the religion, king, and country have started. This move represents an important qualitative step forward in the development of Saudi Arabia, which will open the doors to the Saudi citizen to

participate in shouldering the responsibilities of constructing a promising future in confidence and with hope. [passage omitted]

## Yemen

### Salih Attends Parade on Revolution Anniversary

*JN1410170493 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Excerpt] At the peak of our Yemeni people's celebrations of the immortal Yemeni revolution anniversary and of this great historic day, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, attended a grand military and youth parade in the Square-70 in Sanaa this morning to celebrate the occasion of the immortal 14 October revolution anniversary and to graduate new classes of military and security colleges.

The parade was also attended by brothers 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani and Salim Salih Muhammad, members of the Presidential Council; Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives; Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister; Field Marshal 'Abdallah al-Sallal; Judge 'Abd-al-Salam Sabrah; the deputy prime ministers; ministers; members of House of Representatives; members of the General Committee of the General People's Congress; members of the of the political bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party; members of the Higher Commission of the Yemeni Reform Grouping; leaders of political parties and organizations; leaders of mass organizations; our country's guests; heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Sanaa; and a large crowd of citizens.

When the brother chairman arrived at the main platform, the national anthem was played. Accompanied by the defense minister, the chairman laid a wreath on the unknown soldier's monument and read the opening chapter of the Koran for the souls of the martyrs of the Yemeni revolution.

Afterward, Defense Minister brother Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir delivered a speech on behalf of the Armed Forces. At the beginning of his speech, he hailed our people and their political leadership on this immortal occasion. He affirmed the determination of the Armed Forces to exert more sacrifices to defend the homeland, the gains of the revolution and unity, and to follow the same path for the sake of which the martyrs of the homeland have fallen throughout the stages of the revolution and national struggle. [passage omitted]

### Danielle Mitterrand Mediating Iraq-Kurd Talks

*JN1110190693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 11 Oct 93*

[Report 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi from Brussels]

[Text] In one of its hotels, Brussels is currently hosting a high-level meeting between representatives of the Iraqi Government and the most important Kurdish opposition factions. This what was stressed to Radio Monte Carlo by French sources very close to Mrs. Danielle Mitterrand, who is currently mediating between the two sides.

Radio Monte Carlo has learned that Mrs. Danielle Mitterrand, French President Francois Mitterrand's wife, succeeded today in organizing a meeting between the Iraqi authority, represented by Deputy Prime Minister Nuri Shawij, and the Kurdish opposition, represented by Muhammad Tawfiq, who is said to be affiliated with the Barzani front. [names and titles as heard]

A highly-placed Belgian source stressed here that Mrs. Danielle Mitterrand promised the Iraqis, before persuading them to come to Brussels, to assist them in lifting the international blockade imposed on them within the framework of settling the Iraqi Kurdish issue. The source added that Baghdad has set as a condition the holding of talks with the Kurdish parties which do not seek to dismember Iraq.

### Kurdish Aide Denies Mediation

*PM1410142393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Oct 93 pp 1, 4*

['Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi and Munsif al-Sulaymi report: "Reports of European Mediation Between Baghdad and Kurdish Opposition"]

[Excerpts] Brussels, Rabat, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed European sources in Brussels have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the EC is mediating between the central authority in Baghdad and the Iraqi Kurdish opposition. The sources neither denied nor confirmed the reports that France's first lady, Danielle Mitterrand, played a major role in arranging an Iraqi-Kurdish meeting. [passage omitted]

While European diplomatic sources stress that Iraqi officials' meetings with the Kurdish opposition in Brussels complement the talks which began between the two sides in Geneva some time ago, Kurdish deputy "prime minister" Rawj Nuri Shawis [as transliterated], who is in Brussels, has denied reports about meetings with Baghdad's representatives. He said that he did not believe Mrs. Mitterrand was conducting a mediation of this kind.

The Kurdish official emphasized his government's eagerness not to break up Iraq. He said that "the Kurdish people in Iraq stress the importance of a peaceful solution in Iraq as a whole, namely by establishing an Iraqi federal republic in which the Kurdish people enjoy their national rights in full and live in peace, harmony, and tolerance alongside their brothers the Arab people in Iraq—which means we are not working to break up or break with Iraq."

On the Iraqi Kurdish opposition's position on the lifting of the international embargo imposed on Iraq, Rawj Nuri Shawis said "we are not in favor of continuing or renewing the embargo. Nor are we for the lifting of the embargo without prior conditions. We demand that international practices be in the interests of the Iraqi people, who are suffering more than others from the effects of this embargo. Thus, we hope that the lifting of the international embargo will be linked to democratic changes in Iraq and to guaranteeing the Kurdish people's rights in Iraq."

In London, an Iraqi source from the non-Kurdish opposition has said that he does not rule out Kurdish-Iraqi meetings in Brussels. The source added that contacts between the two sides, especially with regard to humanitarian and trade issues, have not been interrupted. Kurdish opposition representatives in London declined to comment on the reports pending the leaders' return from Brussels. [passage omitted]

### Kurdistan Paper Reports Explosions in Baghdad

*NC1310194693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 93*

[Text] According to press reports, a massive explosion took place in an arms depot inside al-Rashid barracks in Baghdad at dawn last Thursday [7 October]. The newspaper KURDISTAN NEWS says that several explosions also took place in Madinat al-Thawrah [in Baghdad].

### U.S. 'Humiliation' in Haiti, Somalia Viewed

*JN1410113793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—The newspaper BABIL says that what has happened to U.S. landing ship off the Haitian coast at the hands of Haitians is a fresh humiliation to the Americans coming on the heels of the humiliation they experienced in Somalia.

In an editorial entitled "Haiti After Somalia, and the Rest Will Come," the paper adds: The Haitians' position has prompted Clinton to suspend the military mission in Haiti, and to resort, as usual, to threats of embargo, freezing assets abroad, and an oil ban.

The paper recalls what has happened to the United States in Somalia at the hands of the troops of General Mohamed Farah Aidid, saying that scenes of peoples rejoicing over U.S. humiliation have been seen again. For, the Somalis have recently trampled under foot the dead bodies of the U.S. invaders; and yesterday the Haitians expressed extreme jubilation when they saw a U.S. landing ship withdrawing from Haitian territorial waters.

The paper says that the brilliance of the Iraqi jihad model unleashed by the eternal Mother of Battles will

continue to shine. This brilliance will not be obscured by the United States. The end result of all this is bound to emerge; we only have to wait and see, the paper argues.

### Professor: U.S. Used 'Nuclear Bullets' in War

*JN1110161093 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 11 Oct 93*

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 11, INA—Head of the Yellow Cross Society Siegwart Gunther stressed that the U.S. forces have used nuclear bullets in their war against Iraq in 1991. Professor Gunther quoted a document as saying that "when American forces meet the Iraqis head-on in what some military experts believe will be the biggest tank battle in the history of warfare, they will depend on a tactical nuclear weapon to clear the field of Iraq's armoured divisions. The U.S. Army is equipped with high-tech munitions made from nuclear wastes that can melt through the layer of armour protecting the Iraqi crews, burning them alive".

"Not coincidentally those same tank-killing shells have probably turned the Iraqi desert into a permanently toxic hellhole for generations to come", Professor Gunther commented.

The bullets represent an ingenuous solution to the nuclear industry's paralyzing problem of what to do about nuclear waste. For decades, scientists have debated whether to send depleted uranium fuel into space or bury it at the bottom of the sea. But turning spent uranium into bullets that can be splattered around the battle-fields of the world is another answer, according to the document.

He went on to say that workers who inhale uranium face an additional problem, beyond the dust and radiation hazards. "Uranium is a toxic heavy metal which can affect the kidneys", he explained.

In fact, Professor Gunther has been since 1991 investigating and raising the issue of what is called "Desert Storm Syndrome". He has now a project of publishing a book on Iraq's crisis entitled "Silent Witnesses of a War". The book will include various photos taken by Gunther himself. He has toured a number of hospitals in Iraq and gave interviews and lectures on the condition of Iraqi children.

In his current visit to Iraq, Professor Gunther brought a donation of medicine in an attempt "to break the blockade imposed on Iraq". The supply is donated by humanitarian societies of Germany and Austria and is to be handed to Iraq's Red Crescent Society", he told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER. [no opening quotation mark as received]

The German professor called for combating the contamination and dangers resulting from depleted uranium. Referring to a health report, he said that contamination from depleted uranium poses a serious health hazard to Iraqi children, U.S. and allied troops which took part in the war, residents near sites where the toxic and radioactive substances are produced, tested or stored and workers who manufacture depleted uranium.

He also called for an investigation into the case of depleted uranium left in the Arab Gulf, and recommended the cleaning of the area from radioactive bullets shot by coalition forces against Iraq.

After investigation, Professor Gunther attributed the spread of cancer, leukaemia and mysterious disease which causes abdomen distension in Iraq to the radioactive bullets.

### U.S. Airspace 'Violations' Protested to UN

*JN1410135093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Iraq has informed the United Nations general secretariat that U.S. aircraft continue to violate the Iraqi airspace for purposes of surveillance and provocation, and that they continue to drop flares.

A message of protest that was addressed by Iraq's permanent UN representative to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali says that from 4-10 October, U.S. aircraft carried out 454 air sorties over various areas in northern and southern Iraq.

A U.S. TR-1 air reconnaissance plane also violated Iraqi airspace over al-'Amarah city on 9 October. Afterward, the plane flew back in the direction of Saudi airspace.

### Arab League Told of 'Violations'

*JN1410131593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers have continued to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft, which constantly violate Iraqi airspace, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, noting that this seriously jeopardizes Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that these aircraft continued on 9-10 October to violate Iraqi airspace. They carried out 83 hostile air sorties over Iraqi territory on the aforementioned dates.

The Iraqi delegate attached to the letter a list detailing these violations, and requested that the letter be circulated among Arab League members so they may be aware of these regrettable incidents.

### Iranian Shelling of Border Areas Protested

*JN1110212093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Oct 93*

[Text] Iraq has informed the United Nations that the Iranian regime's troops shelled border areas in northern Iraq between 19 and 27 September.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali distributed today at the United Nations, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations said that the Iranian regime shelled (al-Duli) area to the northwest of Qal'at Dizah, and (Halshu), (Dura Shimanah), (Biklu), and (Hird) areas east of Qal'at Dizah.

He noted that the Suna, (Sarkhan), and (Zakzakah) areas to the northeast of Qal'at Dizah, as well as (Qandul) and (Kuna Knaw) areas southeast of Qal'at Dizah were also shelled by the Iranian regime's artillery.

### Greek Vessels Leave al-Basrah; 38 Ships Remain

*JN1410174093 Baghdad INA in English 1415 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Al-Basrah, Oct 14, INA—Two Greek vessels have recently left the Port of al-Ma'qil in al-Basrah after getting stuck in the port since the beginning of the Iraq-Iran war.

The departure of the two vessels has brought to 10 the number of foreign ships leaving the port. There are 38 foreign vessels still in the port.

### Ramadan Receives Indian Student Delegation

*JN1210173493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Oct 93*

[Excerpt] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has said Iraq under leader President Saddam Husayn has become a model and an example of the countries adhering to the principles of sovereignty, independence, and progress.

During a meeting with (Mohamed Yones Siddiqi), head of the All India Muslim Students and Youth Organization, Ramadan said: All hostile and savage attempts and methods pursued by the enemies of progress and independence have failed to harm these principles. Instead, they have strengthened the Iraqi people's adherence to these principles and their resolve to defend them. [passage omitted]

### Saddam Chairs Ba'th Party, Youth Bodies Meeting

#### Praises 'Effective Role' of Youth

*JN1310200293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Oct 93*

[Text] President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has chaired a meeting which included the comrade members of Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The meeting was attended by the head of the Teachers Union and members of the Administrative Association of the Teachers Union-General Center. The meeting was also attended by the head and members of the Executive Bureau of the Iraqi National Student Union and head and members of the Executive Bureau of the Iraqi General Youth Union.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with the modes of action pursued by student and youth organizations. They also dealt with ways to tackle the obstacles facing these (?perceptive) organizations.

The leader president blessed their efforts in the service of the [words indistinct] to enhance efforts to build the society, upgrade the scientific level, and promote the youth's effective role in our steadfast country.

#### Briefed on Student Union 'Obstacles'

*JN1310213593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Oct 93*

[Text] President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has met with the head and members of the Executive Bureau of the Iraqi National Student Union.

During the meeting, the leader president was briefed on the obstacles and problems facing the work of the Iraqi National Student Union. His excellency gave the necessary instructions for tackling these obstacles and problems to help stabilize and promote the educational process.

#### Receives Veteran Women Members

*JN1210172693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Oct 93*

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve him, has met with a number of glorious Iraqi women who played militant roles within the ranks of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party before the great 17-30 July Revolution.

The women promised the leader president to remain faithful to their pledge of struggle under his wise, blessed leadership.

### Poll on Public Opinion of Press Performance

*JN1210180593 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 93*

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 12, INA—A public opinion poll on the Iraqi press has recently been conducted by Information Centre of the Ministry of Information and Culture.

According to the head of the centre the poll which was conducted in September this year aimed mainly at surveying people's opinion on the Iraqi press and the shortcomings and the role of the press in dealing with, and treating issues of special interest to the readers.

The poll also surveyed people's opinion on the press coverage of the U.S.-led war against the country shedding light on the difficulties people face in obtaining the paper.

The survey covers a representative selection of the people from different domains including writers, universities' lecturers, artists, journalists, students, physicians, soldiers, officers, pensioners and businessmen, al-Farhan said.

Mr al-Farhan noted that some 500 questionaires were distributed, but only 420 ones were returned back.

Some 233 male and 187 female have taken part in the poll said al-Farhan, indicating that some 7.1 per cent of the study group, that is some 30 people are of the 16-20 age bracket, and some 158 people, that is some 37.6 per cent are of the 21-30 age braket while some 60 people are of the 41-50 age bracket forming 14.2 per cent of the study group.

According to the statistics some 52 people have diploma degree, 154 with academic degree and 28 others hold M.A. and PH.D degrees, while the remaining 49 ones are graduates of primary, intermediate and secondary stages.

Al-Farhan said that the poll showed that some 183 people read the paper regularly, that is some 43.5 per cent, while some 208 people sometimes do. As regards the way the people got the paper, [words indistinct] 182 people got the paper from their offices, 86 others buy it from news vendours, 83 people buy it from the bookstall, some 45 people borrow it and 23 people find difficulties in obtaining the paper.

Moreover, 37.6 per cent, that is some 158 people do not have a favourred paper while some 128 people buy certain papers and 85 people buy more than one paper, the poll showed.

The poll noted that 226 people of the study group read Arab and international news, 193 ones read art news, 187 people read political articles, some read sport pages, 186 people read local news and some 162 ones read foreign features and reports.

The poll also showed that 37.8 per cent of the study group, that is some 159 prefer reading people's complaints, some 137 read literary works and art pages, 132 ones read local reports, while some 111 people prefer reading the advertisement.

According to the poll some 181 people viewed the politicial articles as mere composition, while some 127 neople have good opinion of the articles and some 40 others are of the opinion that most political articles are ambigious.

The poll showed that some 204 people of the group viewed the coverage of the local news as good, some 112 regarded it as acceptable, while some 76 ones have low opinion of it.

As regards editorials, some 164 people said that they sometimes read editorials, and some 144 ones always read them while some 87 others never do.

As regards shortcomings, the poll showed that some 169 are of the opinion that the press did not present a coverage of local, arab and international economic affairs, while in the opinion of some 104 people of the study group, the press did not present political analyses and 97 others are of the opinion that the press did not cover religious affairs.

Moreover, some 59 people of the group lack the coverage of scientific news while 39 others lack news related to woman's affairs and nine others lack translated works.

As regards the press coverage of the news of the U.S.-led aggression against the country, some 237 people out of people that is some 56.4 per cent are of the opinion that the press succeeded in dealing with and covering the news of the war, while in the opinion of the remaining 172, the press failed in dealing with the media of the aggression countries.

## IDF To Reclassify Settlements Near Gaza Strip

*TA1410125093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Oct 93 p A5*

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has decided to classify settlements along the Green Line near the Gaza Strip according to two security criteria and has drawn two maps to this effect.

According to the IDF decision, settlements situated up to 10 km from the Gaza Strip will be classified as "Class A," thus qualifying for an upgrade in the level of security. This class will include some 40 settlements, from Kibbutz Erez to Kibbutz Nir Yitzhaq.

"Class B" will encompass some 50 settlements situated up to 20 km from the Gaza Strip.

"Class A" settlements will be provided more security precautions than "Class B" settlements, such as radio equipment, patrols, and personal safety equipment.

A military source said the IDF will step up security in all settlements adjacent to the Gaza Strip upon the withdrawal from the area to be executed by 7 April 1994.

Settlement leaders will soon present the defense establishment with their demands for a variety of security and defense measures in anticipation of the IDF pullout. One of their demands, which has already been made public, is the construction of a security fence.

## Additional Budget for Settlement Security Approved

*TA1410124293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur has approved improvements in the security arrangements for Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, settlements adjacent to the Gaza Strip, and settlements situated around Jericho. The improvements will involve an additional budget of 14 million shekels, which will pay for new fences, lighting, gates, loudspeakers, patrols, and upgrading roads used by farmers.

## Arrow Test Launch Held; Success 'Not Yet Clear'

*TA1410164193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] The sixth test launch of the Arrow missile was held today. Our correspondent Limor Resler has the initial details:

Several minutes ago, a Defense Ministry officially confirmed that the Arrow missile was fired at a target missile equipped with a simulated chemical warhead. This was the sixth trial launch of the Arrow missile, this time testing interception. It is not yet clear whether the test succeeded. The final evaluations regarding the encounter between the two missiles will be presented only after the data is processed and examined at the test center in central Israel.

A similar test was held two months ago, but it failed when, due to a technical malfunction, the target missile diverted from its trajectory and, as a result, the intercepting missile was not launched at all.

### Minister on 'Implicit Confederation' With Syria

*NC1510070993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Oct 93*

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul said that Lebanon rejects the signing of a separate agreement with Israel. In an interview with the magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, he said that the settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon is unacceptable. Dallul added: If the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement fails to take care of Palestinian interests, do other countries have to take care of them?

Dallul said that Lebanon is heading toward an implicit confederation [kunfidraliyah ghayr mu'lanah] with Syria.

As for the dissatisfaction among Christians, Dallul said that such a feeling is unjustified and only befits the unsuccessful and incapable.

Dallul pointed out that the Lebanese Army is ready to go to the south as soon as Israel withdraws.

### Al-Hirawi Comments on Peace, Rebuilding Economy

*NC1310184493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Oct 93*

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi stressed today that Lebanon is not afraid of peace but that if we have no plans to confront it, peace will threaten us.

He said: We approached the peace talks from a wide door and will not escape through the window. He noted that the state is working to rebuild the national economy in a way that will fortify Lebanon's role in the region. He stressed that state cooperation, free enterprise, and support from fraternal and friendly countries are the shortest way to revitalize our national economy. President al-Hirawi was speaking at the opening of the Lebanese Industry Conference in 2000.

### Prime Minister al-Hariri Departs for Paris

*NC1410121893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Beirut for Paris at 0910 today. [passage omitted] Al-Hariri's talks with French officials will deal with several topics, including the Middle East peace talks, bilateral cooperation, and French aid to Lebanon in rebuilding its infrastructure and in the fields of development and reconstruction.

### Phalangist Party, al-Maradah Issue Statement

*NC1410122293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Excerpt] The al-Maradah organization [Maronite militia loyal to the Franjiyah clan] and the Phalangist Party have announced they are embarking on a march to promote a broad trend to restore collective decisionmaking without hegemony, whereby decisions would be based on consultations and openness, not withdrawal and frustration. This came in a joint statement issued today following a meeting in Bnash'i, Zgharta. Minister Sulayman Franjiyah, Dr. George Sa'adah, and senior Phalangist and al-Maradah officials attended the meeting.

The statement, read by Shaykh Simon al-Khazin, director general of the Voice of Lebanon and member of the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau, said that while the two organizations stress that the unity of Lebanon's land, people, and institutions is the only certain guarantee for all, they reject the creation of institutions that parallel the state's. They salute the Lebanese Army, which, despite the fragmentation and loss in the labyrinths of bitter experience, has restored unity and become a source of pride, confidence, and reassurance for all Lebanese because it is led by a wise and firm military command loyal only to Lebanon. [passage omitted]

### Army, Government in 'Confrontation' on Pensions

*NC1410090593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Excerpts] The lack of a Chamber of Deputies quorum to discuss a draft law protecting the rights of the 150,000 military retirees has triggered a sort of confrontation between the Army command and the Finance Ministry and, indirectly, between the Army command and the prime minister. Military sources accused the government of preventing a quorum to reject the draft law, on which the government and the Army command had agreed through the Defense Ministry. The sources said that the government had amended figures in line with its policy of reducing expenditures, although Decree No. 161 excludes the military from rights given to civilians.

In light of this negative approach, the Army command held a meeting and decided to reduce tasks assigned to the Army by the Council of Ministers. It decided to halt all tasks aside from the main mission of the Army, such as checking identity cards and vehicle papers. It instructed its units to leave these tasks to the Internal Security Forces. [passage omitted]

A confrontation of another kind erupted later when a group from the Army's commando regiment entered the Finance Ministry at Riyad al-Sulh Square and asked Hanallah Nahhas, the secretary of Finance Minister Fu'ad Sinyurah, to go with the group for questioning about remarks she supposedly made citing the minister as saying: The Army will not get a single penny while I am the minister. Sinyurah contacted the prime minister and the interior minister to calm the situation. [passage omitted]

[In a related report, Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic at 0530 GMT on 14 October adds the following: "Answering a question, Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, who announced the decisions of the Council of Ministers last night, denied a report by a news agency that the Army had abandoned some of its security tasks

in the capital. He said the report was inaccurate, and that there were many baseless reports. All there is to say, he added, is that the Council of Ministers thoroughly discussed the Army situation and stressed the need to provide it with all means of support to increase its capabilities in all fields.

"He said the Council discussed the incident in which some soldiers came to the Finance Ministry, which is a violation of the law, and the defense minister was assigned to investigate the matter.

"Dallul stressed that the situation of the Army is sound and that there is response and full harmony between the Army and the political authority. He explained that the draft law on military retirement will be placed on the agenda of the first Chamber of Deputies session. He said this is a right of the military establishment and the government is sure of this. He added that the lack of quorum for the past Chamber of Deputies session prevented the ratification of the draft law."]

## Military Operations, Clashes Continue in South

### Killing of 'Terrorists' Detailed

*NC1310121993 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 13 Oct 93*

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that three terrorists were killed last night trying to plant explosive devices on the al-Qantarah road. The terrorist group was spotted at about 2230 yesterday. Artillery shells were fired at the group and this morning, South Lebanese Army [SLA] forces carried out a sweep of the area, discovering two bodies and the remains of a third. Personal weapons, explosive material, hand grenades, and RPG launchers were discovered near the bodies.

Our correspondent reports that one of the dead had a tattoo on his arm saying: My life is torment. He said the terrorists booby-trapped a LAW shell, a military pouch, and a water canteen at the side of the road, which SLA patrols use regularly. Nothing was discovered to identify the terrorists. Lieutenant Colonel 'Aql Hashim, commander of the western sector, speculated that they were Palestinians.

### Israeli Overflights, Raids Reported

*NC1310180493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Oct 93*

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over areas in the south this afternoon, conducting mock raids over the areas of Wadi al-Saluqi and the forests of Yatar. The planes dropped scores of thermal balloons.

According to reports from the south, the occupation troops have discovered three dead bodies, believed to belong to a resistance group, in the al-Qantarah area.

### Resistance Attacks; Israelis Retaliate

*NC1410145793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] There were new military operations in the south today involving resistance attacks and Israeli artillery bombardment. According to our correspondent, the resistance men attacked the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah position with mortar fire last night. The Israelis retaliated by shelling the al-Litani River basin and adjacent wadis, causing property damage.

Our correspondent said that five shells fell on the outskirts of Ziqbin today, causing damage to cultivated fields. He added that Israeli gunboats opened fire on Ra's al-'Ayn coastline and al-Qulaylah plain south of Tyre at dawn today.

Our correspondent toured Qabrikha, Frun, al-Ghanduriyah, Tulin, Majdal Silm, Ziqbin, Jibal al-Butm, and Bra'shit and observed that Israeli helicopters had dropped iron nails on the roads leading to these villages which lie opposite to the Israeli positions. He also observed that the Finnish contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] is clearing the nails. UNIFIL sources estimated that about 2 tons of nails were dropped.

### 'Terrorists', SLA Exchange Fire

*TA1410172593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Fire exchanges are currently taking place in the Sujud area in the central sector of the security zone in south Lebanon after the terrorists opened fire at an SLA [South Lebanese Army] outpost. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that it is similar in scope to other incidents in the region in recent days.

### UNIFIL Protests Israeli Actions

*NC1410175793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] The UN Interim Force in Lebanon has strongly protested to the occupation forces after Israeli helicopters dropped nails over Jibal al-butm, Zibqin, al-Ghanduriyah, and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr yesterday. These villages lie within the UNIFIL operations area. The Israeli action hindered the movement of UNIFIL personnel, local residents, and civilian and military vehicles.

In another development, the Israeli occupation forces laid mines in the area between Rshaf and Haris in the central sector of the south. Three mines exploded, killing some livestock.

## Afghanistan

### 'Heavy' Casualties in Sarobi Fighting Reported

*LD1310180093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1715 GMT 13 Oct 93*

[Text] Rocket attacks and heavy weapons bombardment by Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] on the positions of the Islamic Army, and the groups of different jehadi forces continued today, too. A responsible source from the Defense Ministry told a BIA military correspondent that, in the course of last night and today, rockets and heavy weapons attacks by members of Hezb-e Eslami on the positions of the Islamic Army and jehadi forces in Sarobi District were conducted intermittently. As a result of the firing [of heavy weapons], heavy loss of life and material damage have been suffered by the local people. The source added that units of the Islamic Army have defended their positions against the attacks of the aggressors and have checked their advances.

### Sarobi 'Destroyed'; Hekmatyar Blamed

*LD1410173193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] The battle which has begun recently by personnel of [Golboddin] Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] is still continuing. A military correspondent of the Bakhtar Information Agency [BIA] reported that during this period [words indistinct] of our compatriots have been martyred as a result of missile and heavy weapons fire. [passage indistinct]

The BIA commentator writes in this regard: For the purpose of carrying out his expansionist plans, Hekmatyar is using various pretexts and has started bloody wars. This time too he wants to portray the present war as a conflict between the Ahmadzai tribe and the Jalalabad Council so that [words indistinct]. The battle is not against the Jalalabad Council, but against the Sarobi Council which includes all jihadi formations. As a result of this battle Sarobi town and a large number of state establishments have been destroyed or damaged. People's property have been looted, electricity and roads have been cut. Also the prisoners which have been captured in the battle do not belong to the Ahmadzai tribe but are from Logar Province and the Charasiab district.

The BIA military commentator adds that Hekmatyar, for the purpose of his expansionist aims, is using tribal prejudices and the creation of tension between tribes for his own interests. He never thinks about the well-being of the people. This is under conditions when Kabul citizens are suffering deeply as a result of the shortage of foodstuffs and fuel, highways have been cut off, and electricity cables severed. As the prime minister of the country, how will he answer the population.

It should be stated that assorted heavy weapons including Oragan, BM-21 [MRLS system], and tanks have been used in this battle. The Ahmadzai tribe have never had such weapons. It should be added that all tribes in Afghanistan, including the Ahmadzai tribe, support their Islamic state and are never influenced by the foul propaganda of Hezb-e Eslami of Golboddin Hekmatyar. They realize full well the expansionist aims of Golboddin Hekmatyar and do not want to enter a war against their people. In present conditions when all Muslim people of the country want peace, the commencement of such a destructive war does not bring any benefit to Hekmatyar from the people of the region, but [?isolation].

### Attorney General's Office Appointments Announced

*LD1310213193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1715 GMT 13 Oct 93*

[Text] At the proposal of the attorney general, and the approval of the esteemed president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], the following appointment have been made in the attorney general's [office] of the ISA:

1. Esteemed Shamsul Haq Jaffari, son of Mullah Abdol Khaleq, as head of the National Security Public Prosecution Department, with the rank of major general.

2. Esteemed Amiroddin (?Qafi), son of Amanoddin, as National Security Public Prosecutor, with the rank of brigadier general.

## India

### Paper on China's Nuclear Stance, U.S. Ties

*BK1410043093 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 7 Oct 93 p 8*

[Editorial: "China's Nuclear Stance"]

[Text] China's latest nuclear test puts into sharp relief two key aspects of its basic policy on nuclear disarmament. One, of course is the well-known Chinese stand that so long as the US clings to nuclear deterrence as its own fundamental policy. all talk of disarmament will be deceptive. This is why China constantly harps on the theme that even if the START-I and START-II accords between the two countries with the biggest nuclear arsenals, i.e. the US and Russia, are faithfully implemented, it will be 2003 before their respective armaments will be reduced to 3,000 and 3,500 nuclear devices. The other thing which China has now underlined is that it will not meekly accept, as an example worth following, any ad hoc measure on disarmament which the US might deem vital. Beijing insists that every step towards universal denuclearisation must be negotiated between all the nuclear weapons states. Perhaps the Chinese will agree to consider any American proposal if the US at least takes it up with them bilaterally. But a mere appeal to China to respect the unilateral American moratorium on tests by itself observing similar restraint is, in Beijing's view, a different thing altogether. This approach was implicit in China's test in September 1992 within days of the announcement of the American moratorium.

Other aspects of the wide range of the Sino-US relationships also impinge constantly on disarmament moves. Last month the US slapped sanctions against China, along with Pakistan, to register its disapproval of the transfer of Chinese M-11 missile components and technology. The overall impact, in economic terms, of the sanctions has been anything but a matter of deep concern to Beijing. But the slight caused to China rankles and leads to more tension in bilateral dealings from time to time. Again, proposals for the supply of more sophisticated American military hardware to Taiwan have had the same effect. Given such irritants, it is easy to imagine the Chinese authorities wondering why they should oblige President Clinton by heeding such pleas as the one relating to a moratorium on tests.

There is yet another factor, which, of late, seems to have started worrying the Chinese. That is the course US-Russian ties may take. The collapse of the Soviet Union as a superpower relieved Beijing of much of its anxiety about its security. But the Chinese rulers could not have dismissed, as a routine affair, an accord on strengthening US-Russian defence ties signed last month. It is about joint peace-keeping exercises and setting up a defence hotline. The American Defence Secretary, Les Aspin, hailed the agreement as a signal that "the well-being and security of the US and the Russian Federation are vitally related." The actual signal the Chinese might well have discerned is that they had better keep a close watch. Beijing may thus become more wary about moves against nukes

## PRC Offers Cooperation in Coal Industry

*BK1410153093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] A high-powered four-member Chinese delegation led by the vice minister of coal and industry, (Mr. Fan Yi Tang), today held wide-ranging discussions with the Indian delegation. The Indian side was headed by the secretary, Ministry of Coal, Mr. S.K. Lan. The Chinese side offered to cooperate with the Indian coal industry, for which wide ranging opportunities exists. China being the largest coal producing country in the world, with the current level of production of over 1,100 million tons per annum. [sentence as heard] While China has specialized in the underground mining, the Indian coal industry specialize in open cast mining.

## Editorial on Rao Attempts To 'Counter' Pakistan

*BK1010120193 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 27 Sep 93 p 2*

[Editorial: "Success of Iran Visit"]

[Text] Despite the unrest and disturbances in the country, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has made two important foreign trips within a short period of time. The government claims that both visits were successful beyond expectations.

Questions have arisen as to whether it is proper to describe Rao's visit to Iran as fruitful. India has no alternative but to counter Pakistan's moves to corner India in international forums, particularly in the Islamic world, centering on the Babri Mosque and Kashmir issues. The fact that India is making efforts in this direction became clear during Rao's visit to Iran. Pakistan has always tried to denounce India at meetings of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] by dragging in the Kashmir issue.

Since the demolition of the Babri Mosque on 6 December last year, the entire Muslim world has questioned India's secular principles and expressed concern over the security of Muslims in this Hindu- dominated country. Some of these countries, including Pakistan, are making efforts to accentuate the tension already prevalent in India. It is the responsibility of Indian diplomats to resist these evil designs. It would be a great achievement for India if it could forge closer ties with Iran—which is regarded as one of the leading Islamic countries and the center of Islamic fundamentalism—and explain the real situation. It would not be improper to say that this objective was realized during Rao's visit to Iran.

Iran has not declared that Kashmir is an integral part of India. It has, however, admitted that sending terrorists into the valley from the outside is unlawful. Without naming Pakistan, Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani condemned these evil deeds. He indirectly admitted that Kashmir is located within India. President Rafsanjani said, however, that Kashmir is a bilateral problem between India and Pakistan and should be resolved through dialogue between the two countries. He said it would not be proper for any other country to mediate or interfere in the matter.

This means that neither the UN nor the ICO are proper forums for discussing the Kashmir issue. But this is being done regularly by Pakistan in violation of the provisions of the Simla accord. Iran's call for resolving the subcontinent's problems through dialogue is contrary to the Pakistan's desires. It will soon become clear how much Pakistan is willing to abide by this advice. We have yet to see how Pakistan acts at the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly. At the same time, we have yet to see what role Iran and other friendly countries play at the next ICO meeting. It is also yet to be seen whether it will be possible for Pakistan to raise the Kashmir issue in international forums, and how much support it receives from other countries.

The Prime Minister's Office is overenthusiastic about the success of his Iran visit. It has yet to be seen how firm the basis of this enthusiasm is. New Delhi should tell everyone repeatedly that it has not deviated from its secular principles and that the interests of Indian Muslims are protected in the country. It should also say that Pakistan's activities are undesirable. Rao's ability to convey India's stand on the Kashmir and other issues to a powerful country like Iran should be regarded as the major success of his visit. If the purpose of his trip to

Iran was to win the hearts of India's minorities, there is nothing to feel shy about—that is politics.

### Zambian President Departs, Comments on Ties

*BK0710114193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 7 Oct 93*

[Text] The president of Zambia, Mr. F.J.P. Chiluba has described his visit to India as fruitful. Talking to newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] before his departure, Mr. Chiluba said the relations between the two governments are changing into people-to-people relations. The president said his visit will cement these relations. During his stay, the Zambian president had wide-ranging talks with the president and the prime minister and agreement on controlling narcotics traffic was also signed during his visit. The Zambian president has invited Indian investment in his country in a new environment of economic liberalization. He was addressing a gathering on the occasion of the signing of the joint business council agreement between the FICCI [Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry] and the Zambian Association of Chambers of Commerce in New Delhi last night.

### Agreement Signed on Cooperation With Estonia

*BK1410125693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] India and Estonia are to strengthen bilateral cooperation in technical and economic fields. An agreement to this effect was signed by the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and the Estonian foreign minister, Mr. Trivimi Velliste, in New Delhi. The two leaders also signed declaration of principles of bilateral relations.

Earlier, the two foreign ministers had wide-ranging discussions on issues of mutual concern. Mr. Velliste indicated that his country will set up an embassy in New Delhi within two years.

### Shoot-on-Sight Orders Issued for Assam Arsonists

*BK1110163093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Oct 93*

[Text] In Assam, shoot-at-sight orders have been issued in the violence-hit areas of Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon Districts, following fresh reports of arson in Jaipur village under Bijli police station. Official sources at Dispore said the miscreants set ablaze 70 houses at Jaipur village yesterday. However, the situation in other trouble-hit areas is reported to be under control.

The chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, toured the affected areas yesterday and today. He appealed to the camp inmates to return to their villages as early as possible since full security measures have been taken for them. He also assured setting up of permanent police pickets in the vulnerable areas and extensive patrolling by paramilitary forces. At least 30,000 affected people have taken shelter in 23 makeshift relief camps in Bongaigaon District.

Meanwhile, the Assam Gono Parishad, AGP, has demanded a judicial inquiry into the recent ethnic clashes in the Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon Districts, where several people have been killed.

### Daily Views Establishment of Human Rights Commission

*BK1410135993 Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Oct 93 p 4*

[Editorial: "The Right View of Rights"]

[Text] The setting up of a much publicised five-member National Human Rights Commission is a somewhat belated recognition by the government that human rights have gained a salience they never had before. Of late, the government had come under increasing American pressure. Ostensibly, the U.S. wanted to improve India's human rights records, though many in this country thought the Americans on purpose were barking up the wrong tree. This was partly because New Delhi adopted a defensive attitude. But this apart, there is need to address the question of human rights. Western countries generally are convinced that the "coloured" people are insensitive to questions of human rights. Kashmir and Punjab were widely reported as areas where these rights are grossly violated. India sided with China and Indonesia on human rights issues at the Bangkok meeting prior to the Vienna conference on the subject. Amnesty International is riding itself of its cold war prejudices. The U.S. human rights bodies still remain wedded to the American foreign policy aims. Amnesty and other similar bodies want to inspect Kashmir and Punjab. This together with Pakistan's skilful propaganda in identifying Kashmir with human rights abuses placed the Indian government in the dock. It was in response to the mounting criticism on this score that the government in a last minute initiative rushed through a Human Rights Commission Bill on the last day of the Budget session of Parliament. Not surprisingly the Bill was found to be full of loopholes, generating much controversy even before it was put to test. What was considered particularly objectionable was that the body's independence was compromised through its proposed composition. The inclusion of as many as three former officials in the five-member Commission made government's dominance over it almost a certainty. Besides, the commission seemed to lack sufficient teeth. For not only were its powers to investigate institutions under State government control, like jails, subject to the latter's approval but even its powers to take up complaints against the armed forces were severely limited. Besides, institution of a human rights commission cannot by itself put a stop to human rights abuses. Given that a vigorous free press and an independent judiciary that provide a built-in corrective in the system have often proved inadequate to this task, there is a pressing need to humanise the law enforcing agencies. Dispensation of justice should be made more fair than it is now. There must also be a greater honesty on the part of

the government in dealing with the issue. India should not be defensive about what it is doing in this area and what more remains to be done. The announcement of a Human Rights Commission is thus welcome. Instead of allowing politically-motivated organisations like the U.S.-based Asia Watch to preach to us on this issue, the government has taken initiative on its own to show it is alive to the problems of human rights. This should make explicit that India requires no external proddings. It is also, however, necessary that having set up the National Human Rights Commission, the government must ensure that it is no mere window-dressing.

### Four Zones Created for Deployment of Paramilitary Forces

*BK1410160493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] The center has decided to create four zones in the country for the smooth deployment of paramilitary forces among the states. Disclosing this at a news conference in Gauhati today, the union minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said that the headquarters of the eastern zone will be located at Gauhati. He said that the paramilitary forces will be kept ready at Central Headquarters, and they will be deployed in different states as per requirement. Mr. Pilot also said that a three-member committee has been constituted for demarcation of the boundaries of the newly- created Bodoland Autonomous Council of Assam.

### Party Leader, Two Others Killed in Uttar Pradesh

*BK1410163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, three persons—including a leader of the Samajwadi Party, Mohammed Shahnaz Ansari of Ghazibad District—was shot dead by some unidentified persons this morning. According to the police, the deceased were going in a car when some armed persons fired near (Badarak) bridge on Muzaffarnagar and Saharanpur Road.

## Iran

### Larijani Calls For 'Coherent' Economic Agenda

*NC1410140593 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Oct 93 p 24*

[Commentary by Mohammad Javad Larijani; from the "Focus" column: "Iran's Economy and the New Minister"]

[Text] Two months ago, Dr. Nurbakhsh was sacked from his post as economic minister by a bitter no-confidence vote.

Just a few days ago, a new minister with basically the same economical views was sworn in by the parliament. So what's the deal? Are President Rafsanjani's economic policies really at stake?

Let's have a glance at the president's main economic agenda:
Continuing the march towards a market economy
Expediting the privatization process
Encouraging foreign investment
Offering more relief to the needy.

Majles support for the agenda is as solid as it ever was four years ago, but the dispute is over the 'pace' and 'coherence,' of the president's Action Plan.

The records speak loudly: the push towards a market economy is outstanding, the climax being in the bold step taken to make the foreign exchange on the rial a single rate. But privatization hasn't moved a bit! Consequently our economy is left to the mercy of huge governmentally controlled institutions and they rip the fruits of market economy without any concern for quantity or quality of their production.

Thus it's not surprising to see inflation going wild and recession threatening our GNP. This incompatibility is the main worry in the mind of most parliamentarians.

Nonetheless, foreign investment is still lacking both 'security and incentive'. No incentive is more effective than a bright prospect of 'profit' and in Iran's current consumer market nothing is more assured than a high turn out. Investment security, therefore, has the duty to give birth to such a high potential. Finally, the president's bill on a comprehensive health care plan should be counted as number one in the history of modern Iran.

No one should expect Morteza Mohammadkhan, the new minister, to have an easy ride on such a rough road. What really is expected by a majority in the Majles is a 'sound' and 'coherent' economic policy which guarantees the realization of the main ideas of President Rafsanjani's wirtshaftwunder! [economic miracle]

### Decline in Tehran Trade Fair Attendance Viewed

*NC1410141193 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 6 Oct 93 p 2*

[Editorial: "Temporary Credit Problems"]

[Text] The 19th Tehran International Trade Fair, in which many domestic and foreign companies have participated, opened on Saturday October 2, in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and has since been visited by many government authorities, local businessmen and by the general public.

There is a noticeable decline this year in the number of foreign participants, and from informal talks with the attendants at the foreign pavilions it has transpired that the most important reason for reluctance on the part of the foreign companies to have more active presence at the Tehran International Trade Fair this year is Iran's failure to meet its credit obligations.

Naturally this is a very serious situation which could have adverse effects on the country's credit situation and on its domestic commerce and industry.

It is, therefore, necessary for the concerned government authorities and particularly the officials in charge of the country's monetary policies to take up urgent remedial measures.

Iran's international credit problems is in part due to the general world recession, but as the country is in the process of economic and industrial reconstruction, its financial relations with the outside world has to be improved if the reconstruction process is to continue smoothly.

On the other hand, foreign companies doing business with Iran should take into consideration that Iran is now going through a very difficult economic period which will not last long.

There is of course the possibility that mistakes may have been committed in the adoption of financial policies. But the foreign companies and governments should keep in mind that Iran is now implementing numerous development and infrastructure projects which will in the long run result in the country's economic growth.

Another circumstance that has created temporary credit problems for Iran is the recent recession in the international oil market which has now been resolved to a great extent.

Countries that have entered into economic transactions with Iran should continue to do business with the country, in spite of Iran's temporary credit difficulties. They should try to gain firm trading footholds in Iran now, for in view of the country's bright economic prospects, in future there will be many people who will want to do business with Iran.

As a matter of fact one of the reasons for the reduction in the volume of Iran's foreign trade is the rehabilitation of the local industries and the growth of domestic production. Nevertheless it is true that on the macroeconomic level, urgent measures should be taken to solve the problem of credit deficiency, and the timely fulfillment of financial obligations are given top priority.

## U.S.-Israeli Stance on Iran-PRC Ties Assessed

*NC1410142493 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 10 Oct 93 p 2*

[Editorial signed "M.P.": "Rabin's China Visit"]

[Text] Fears of close cooperation between China and some countries in the Middle East, has sent Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin scurrying to Beijing to warn the Chinese mandarins of the dangers of Islamic "fundamentalism" and therefore "its threat" to the region.

Three weeks after the handshakes in Washington with PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, Rabin appears to feel more insecure and isolated in the midst of the Palestinian masses. He knows its not going to be easy to co-exist with the Palestinians.

Moreover, the United States plea to the Arabs to lift the boycott of Israel has made little headway. Even old faithful Saudi Arabia was adamant at the recent donors meet in New York.

Lifting of the economic boycott and rescinding anti-Israeli U.N. resolutions are high on Washington's diplomatic agenda, particularly after the September 13 signing of the PLO-Israel accord. However, at the Palestinian aid conference, the Arab ministers tersely informed the Americans that financial pledges to the Palestinians and the boycott of Israel were two different issues.

Thus, Rabin embarks on a trip to China, a traditional staunch supporter of the Palestinians, to create new hostilities in the Middle East region.

Meanwhile, Washington's relations with the Asian giant, has dipped to a new low with a series of ugly diplomatic collisions, the latest being the Yinhe in incident. Prior to this, the Clinton administration imposed sanctions on China for its alleged shipment of missile parts to Pakistan. Its interior department recently pulled out of the five-year deal with China signed in March '92 to provide critical technical support to China's proposed Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River.

Rabin's China visit is not only to plead his own case against Syria and Iran, but also that of the Americans. Washington is certainly not keen on seeing a change in the balance of power in the Middle East. The Americans have seen to it that the Zionist state has always had an edge over the Arabs. Simultaneously, it has very cleverly engaged the Arab nations in a futile arms race at the cost of their economic development.

The idea of Iran having a powerful Asian ally is distasteful to Washington and Tel Aviv. Among all the countries of the Middle East, Islamic Iran has proved to be the toughest nut to crack. The Zionists and Americans would not like to see a strong and prosperous Islamic Iran because it doesn't augur well with their scheme of things for the region.

The blame rests on Washington and Tel Aviv for creating a war psychosis in the Middle East, and the "threat of Islamic fundamentalism". After the demise of Soviet communism, Islamic- bashing has become a favorite theme of U.S. foreign policy-makers. But this is beginning to jar even on those who at one time supported it.

General Rabin says his priority during his first visit to China, will be to seek a halt of missile sales to Iran and Syria. But Rabin is aware that Chinese foreign policy is not governed by Washington and that today, Beijing is economically and politically strong enough not to submit to U.S. bullying tactics.

### Tehran Not To Vote Against North Korea in IAEA

*LD1410160793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's representative to the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency], Mr. Ayatollahi, yesterday, in conversation with the IRNA, referred to the confidential ties between North Korea, the IAEA and the United States, stressing that in view of friendly relations between Iran and North Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iran never wishes to vote against North Korea through other political pressures. [sentence as heard]

### PCC Dismissed as 'Arafat's 'Rubber Stamp'

*LD1210164393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 12 Oct 93*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The Palestine Central Council [PCC], the PLO's tiny parliament, at its meeting in Tunisia last night approved the PLO-Israeli accord and concluded its session in one day; although it was supposed to last for two days. The meeting was held within the framework of the PLO's efforts to legitimize the recent Arafat-Tel Aviv accord. [passage omitted]

Out of 107 PCC members, 80 attended last night's session and 63 of them voted in favor of the PLO-Israeli accord. The rest of the members either boycotted the session or were deprived of attending the PCC session because they had adopted a stand against the accord.

At a time when 'Arafat is striving hard to legitimize his accord with Israel, various Palestinian factions inside and outside the PLO have expressed doubt about the PCC's eligibility to make any decision on this accord. Some consider the PCC's vote as invalid, since its authority is limited, and believe that any decision on the accord should be taken at the national level. Others in general believe that the issue should be put to a direct referendum among the Palestinian nation, since the members of the PCC and the Palestine National Council [PNC] are appointed by 'Arafat.

George Habash, the leader of the People's Front for Palestine Liberation, believes that the composition of the PCC and PNC members, apart from being appointees, is a reflection of the past decades, when the Palestinian groups were the dominant force in the absence of the people's uprising and intifadah. Whereas now that situation has changed fundamentally, thanks to the presence of new forces in the arena of confrontation against the Zionist regime, and these forces should not be ignored at the decision-making stage. The PCC and PNC would be justified in expressing an opinion on the fate of Palestine if they were full representatives of the Palestinian nation and a reflection of that nation's public opinion and the politico-military forces of the arena.

Some political analysts have expressed surprise at the PLO action and the PCC vote, for the PCC began its debate on the PLO-Israeli accord at a time when this accord went through the preliminary implementation process, without any regard for public opinion and before the PCC's ratification. The issue has in practice turned the PCC into a rubber stamp in the hand of 'Arafat, who exploits it appropriately and inappropriately.

### German Eurodeputy Meets With Larijani

*LD1210212793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 12 Oct 93*

[Text] The German representative to the European Parliament, Mr. Schiller, has called on Mr. Javad Larijani, a member of the Foreign Policy Commission in the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majles]. The meeting was held in Tehran yesterday.

Mr. Larijani, in the meeting, expressed regret over the European Parliament's negative stances regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran, saying: These stances show that the political thinking in the European Parliament makes up the areas of cultural and social issues in a casual manner. [sentence as heard]

He stressed: The European parliament has remained unaware of the deep changes in the Islamic world, which has led to the revival of the political rights of the people, campaign against corruption, wide scale participation of the people in the government, and protection of the rights of the individual and the social rights.

Mr. Schiller too stressed the need for European Parliament to have greater contact with other parliaments, inviting Mr. Larijani and other members of the Foreign Policy Commission in the Islamic Consultative Assembly to visit the European Parliament and hold talks with its representatives.

### Russian Envoy Brings Message From Yeltsin

*LD1410113793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] At a meeting today with Foreign Minister Velayati, Russian Ambassador Sergey Tretyakov in Tehran emphasized the continuation of Russia's foreign policy toward good-neighborly relations and friendly ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At the meeting, the Russian ambassador handed a message to the foreign minister from Russian President Boris Yeltsin for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Referring to the trend in Russia of the establishment of stability, Velayati expressed the hope that this trend would progress toward the fulfillment of the Russian peoples' wishes. He added that the interests of the two countries necessitate the further strengthening of the friendly policy of good-neighborly relations and regional cooperation.

## Expansion of Qatari-Iranian Relations Praised

*NC1410132293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Unattributed commentary from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] Official talks between Iranian and Qatari oil officials ended in Tehran with the signing of a memorandum of understanding on joint technical-economic cooperation on oil and gas.

The Qatari minister of energy and industry's meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani constituted one of the most important features of the visit. Our president stressed the need for OPEC members to observe the production ceiling set recently by OPEC.

The Qatari minister's visit to our country in particular and the two countries' joint relations in general are important. First, Iran and Qatar are both OPEC members, and coordination among OPEC members is very important right now. The recent drop in oil prices and the 20 percent reduction in OPEC members' incomes have created economic problems for all oil-producing countries; this can only be tackled by OPEC member countries cooperating to stabilize oil prices.

Second, Iran and Qatar are two neighboring countries and have common sensitivities toward the Persian Gulf for geopolitical reasons. Iran has always supported preserving the Persian Gulf's independence and keeping it away from the rivalries and diktat of foreign powers. The destructive repercussions of foreign intervention in creating and protracting two destructive wars in the Persian Gulf in the past decade dictate that the littoral countries adopt an independent policy that conforms to the interests of the regional nations.

The third element that makes Iranian-Qatari cooperation significant is Qatar's membership of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. Because of that, political exchanges between Iranian and Qatari officials prevent any type of misunderstanding emerging in the region and pave favorable grounds for expanding political, economic, and cultural relations among regional countries.

After the destructive oil war, Iran and Qatar started to expand all-embracing joint cooperation based on their belief that the absence of cooperation among the regional countries and the existence of an unhealthy rivalry among them will continue to pave the ground for hostilities. This process has had fruitful economic results and presented a favorable pattern for other types of regional cooperation.

Implementing several joint projects, namely the transfer of water from Khuzestan to Qatar, jointly exploiting gas resources and the transfer of gas to international markets, and—recently—technical cooperation in oil and gas extraction are among the most important examples of bilateral cooperation. The opening of a permanent market for Iranian products in Qatar is yet another example of mutually beneficial cooperation. Expanding such markets helps the policy of promoting exports, creating foreign exchange income, and creating jobs at home. Because of the proximity of the two countries and the low cost of transport and production, low-priced goods are available to the Qatari people.

## Majles Deputy Views Iranian-Saudi Summit

*NC1410133793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 6 Oct 93 pp 1, 23*

[Report by Irfan Parviz]

[Text] Tehran—The Irano-Saudi Arabian summit meeting is under way and a leading parliamentarian believes that "such an event will be historic."

Majles Deputy from Hamadan Jalal Sa'adatian said President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and King Fahd will meet to thrash out bilateral and regional issues.

Sa'adatian, talking to THE TEHRAN TIMES declined to give details as to where and when the summit will take place, but said, "Such an event will be historical and will have far reaching impact not only on Tehran-Riyadh relations but also over all regional issues."

The two countries are members of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries [OPEC].

"If the two countries reach a stage of mutual understanding they can play vital and effective roles in the OIC for the Islamic ummah and in OPEC for the stability of the oil market," said former diplomat, Sa'adatian.

He said, "OPEC owes President Rafsanjani much gratitude for his role in efforts to drive up sagging oil prices during the Geneva meeting last month."

President Rafsanjani conferred by phone with King Fahd and stressed the need for cooperation in determining the oil price and each country's quota.

Iran and Saudi Arabia are the two largest producers within OPEC and play key roles in its affairs, Sa'adatian said.

Observers here believe that the two nations' understanding will ensure fair new quotas for OPEC members.

The phone conversation between President Rafsanjani and King Fahd raised and stabilized the oil prices.

"Look," Sa'adatian said, "most of the 12 members of OPEC are developing countries and they need stable income to improve the plight of their people for that an understanding among these countries is a must."

President Rafsanjani also talked by phone to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh al-Sabah on similar issues that included bilateral and regional interests.

Sa'adatian believes these developments in the region will definitely pave the way for self-reliance in all affairs including the security in this part of the world.

He referred to the three Persian Gulf islands, Abu Musa, and Greater and Lesser Tunbs and the recent meeting of Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and United Arab Emirates [UAE] official at the UN Headquarters.

He said the UAE earlier postponed its official's visit to Tehran for talks on the three islands but now has agreed to resume contacts to solve the "misunderstandings" between Tehran and Abu Dhabi.

Sa'adatian said the Iraqi situation is a priority for the Islamic Republic of Iran as "we want peace and stability in the entire region on the basis of mutual respect and interests."

He said a delegation from Iraq is due to arrive here for talks with Iranian officials on subjects such as the PoWs and Iranian pilgrims to Iraqi shrines.

Sa'adatian in an answer to a question said Dr. Velayati will go to Riyadh to talk with the Saudi officials. Dr. Velayati may go to Riyadh on his way back to Tehran from UN session, Sa'adatian said.

"Yes, the summit meeting between President Rafsanjani and King Fahd may also be discussed including the timing and venue," Sa'adatian, a member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Majles, said.

### Government Signs Letter of Understanding With Albania

*LD1210135893 Tehran IRNA in English 0936 GMT 12 Oct 93[001a]*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—Iran and Albania here Monday signed a letter of understanding which aims at providing friendly cooperation and relations in health-related areas.

The letter of understanding was signed at the end of the visit to Iran of Albanian Minister of Health and Environmental Protection Tritan Shehu and his Iran's Health Minister 'Ali Reza Marandi.

The two sides agreed to establish short-term training courses for Albanian specialists and experts, depending on Albania's need and Iran's capabilities.

Iran contested to export medicine and medical equipment to Albania at competitive prices and the latter agreed to facilitate issuing permission for the utilization of Iranian products.

The two countries will exchange medical and paramedical staff in addition to students, in a bid to become acquainted with each other's scientific capabilities.

They will also cooperate to improve statistical and data systems, exchange professors and lecturers in medical field and, exchange of medical information concerning "AIDS".

Coordination of experts in areas related to offering health services and setting suitable ground for expanding maternal and child health, environmental health, occupational health programs as well as controlling diseases and improving nutrition are among other tpoics of the agreement.

Shehu, who arrived here on October 8 at the official invitation of Marandi, left early Tuesday.

## Bhutan

### Pro-Democracy Activists Form New Political Party

*BK1410151693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1512 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 14 (AFP)—Pro-democracy Bhutanese activists announced the formation of a new political party to safeguard the sovereignty, independence and culture of Bhutan, a party press release said here Thursday.

The new party, the Bhutan Democratic Socialist Party (BDSP), called for the repatriation of Bhutanese refugees of Nepalese descent currently in Nepal, saying "The people of Bhutan are getting restless and yearn for freedom and safety."

But it thanked the Nepalese government and international agencies for assisting Bhutanese refugees in Nepal, and appealed to the government of Bhutan to take them back as soon as possible.

The press release named Nara Bahadur Giri and D.V. Pakwal as president and general secretary respectively of the new party.

Over 100,000 Bhutanese refugees are currently in camps in southeastern Nepal run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other non-governmental organizations.

The refugees, mostly Hindus of Nepalese descent, cite persecution at the hands of Thimpu authorities enforcing a rigid Bhutanese cultural code in Bhutan.

Crime has been rife in the refugee camps and pro-democracy Bhutanese activists have appealed to the Nepalese government to solve the problem.

## Pakistan

### Qureshi on Prospects for Stable Government

*BK1310160093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Oct 93*

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, left Islamabad for Jeddah this morning to perform Umra

[minor pilgrimage]. In an exclusive interview with PTV correspondent M.Z. Suhail at the Islamabad airport, the prime minister said:

[Begin recording] [Suhail] So, you have held talks with the leaders of the two main political parties. What are the chances of the formation of a stable political government?

[Qureshi] I am very hopeful that we will have a stable political government. But clearly, this will require a spirit of compromise and a spirit of reconciliation on the part of both groups, and I hope that they will follow that objective. [end recording]

Later, the prime minister left for Jeddah. He will stay in the holy land for three days. A number of federal ministers accompanied the prime minister.

### National Assembly To Convene 15 Oct

*LD1310222893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Oct 93*

[Text] The president has summoned the newly elected National Assembly to meet at the parliaments' house in Islamabad on Friday at 3 p.m. On the first day the newly elected members will take oaths of office. The session will then be held on the 17th of this month for election to the offices of the speaker and deputy speaker through secret ballots.

### Party Officials Comment on Power-Sharing Plan

*BK1410162493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Oct 93*

[Text] The two major political parties, the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and the Pakistan Muslim League [PML]-Nawaz Sharif group, have reacted differently to a power sharing plan reported in the press.

A PPP spokesman told reporters in Islamabad today that his party has not agreed to any power sharing plan or the formation of a coalition government with the PML-Nawaz Sharif group. The spokesman said the manifestos of the two parties are different, and therefore the question of sharing power or forming a coalition government is not relevant. The spokesman said that the Pakistan People's Party wishes to forge a working relationship with Nawaz Sharif as the opposition leader. He said the PPP considers the opposition an important part of a democracy, and it wants to include it in all national issues.

Meanwhile, Sarjaj Aziz, PML-Nawaz Sharif group secretary general, said a number of proposals on the formation of a future government are under consideration. Speaking to APP, he said it would be premature to comment on a formula for power sharing. We will have to wait and see; only time will tell how this will be resolved.

### Bhutto Hints at Power Sharing

*BK1510024893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Oct 93*

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, the cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], has said that the Pakistan Democratic Front and its allies have a majority, and we are confident that we will form governments at the federal level as well as in Punjab, Sind, and the North-West Frontier Province. Briefing reporters after presiding over a meeting of the newly elected National Assembly members belonging to the PPP, Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo [PML-J] group, and allied parties in Islamabad last night, she said the meeting decided to nominate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani of the PPP for the post of National Assembly speaker, while a PML-J candidate will be nominated for the post of chief minister of Punjab Province.

Bhutto said the newly elected PPP members of the Sind assembly will meet in Karachi on Saturday to decide on the party candidate for the chief ministership of the province. She said she will hold further discussions with the Muhajir Qaumi Movement to seek their support at the provincial level.

The PPP cochairperon categorically denied reports that her party has accepted any formula for power sharing with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group. She, however, said that if any step is taken in the best interest of the country, then her doors will be open for that. She added that the participation of two parties in matters of national interest will be welcomed.

### 'Copper Gold' Discovered in Balochistan

*BK1410090593 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 12 Oct 93 p 10*

[Editorial: "Discovery of Copper Gold in Chagai"]

[Text] In Chagai District of Balochistan, 417 million tons of copper gold [as published] has been discovered after four years of exploration. This mineral brings in an income of 1.5 billion rupees per annum. It is a regrettable fact that Pakistan is far behind other countries in mineral production and a major reason for this is that no specific focus was made in this direction in the past. Therefore, the country has to spend a considerable amount of foreign exchange every year for the import of petrol, coal, and other things. However, it is a matter of gratification that, in the past few years, there has been a perceptible change in the situation and special attention has been paid toward the mineral sector and various oil, gas, and coal deposits have been discovered with the participation and cooperation of foreign investors and experts. And now the discovery of copper gold in Balochistan is also an encouraging news. This will not only enable the country to make progress toward achieving self-reliance in the mineral sector, but will also greatly help in making a backward province like Balochistan, where the pace of economic development is slow, stand on its own feet by developing its mineral

resources. However, despite this cause for gratification, it is surprising that there are no laboratories to purify and refine the copper gold, as a result of which this mineral is exported to China, Japan, and the United Kingdom. It is imperative to give immediate attention to this aspect and steps should be taken on a priority basis to set up laboratories to process this mineral.

## SAARC Chamber of Commerce Meeting Reviewed

*BK1410074593 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 12 Oct 93 p 5*

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan has been elected to preside over the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] Chamber of Commerce for a two-year term. It has also been decided to establish the permanent secretariat of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce in Karachi. This was disclosed by Raja Tariq Gilani, president of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce, after his return from Delhi where he attended a two-day SAARC Chamber of Commerce conference. He said that S.M. Inam of Pakistan has been elected to the two-year term of president, while Mian Habibullah, president of the Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce, has been elected vice president. India proposed Pakistan for the post of SAARC chamber president. Mian Habibullah announced aid of 100,000 rupees for establishing the secretariat in Karachi.

Reviewing the Delhi conference, Gilani said that it stressed the need for further stabilizing contacts among SAARC countries. It also discussed at length the issues of making the department for research in industry and commerce more dynamic and the prospects of promoting industrial and trade cooperation among SAARC countries. He said that the conference expressed concern that the SAARC regional countries, which produce 80 percent of the world's cotton and 90 percent of the tea, and which enjoy a unique position in the world in raw materials and finished products, only have two to three percent of their external trade among the member countries.

Gilani said that the conference was informed that $5 million will be spent on various matters related to the establishment of possible [word indistinct] industries in SAARC countries. The conference also emphasized the establishment of a SAARC Chamber of Commerce database and on holding trade and cultural fairs in SAARC countries. It also examined the possibility of relaxing customs regulations so as to promote mutual trade and expanding technical cooperation among member countries. The Delhi conference was attended by representatives of chambers of commerce from Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka and SAARC Secretary General I.H. Zaki. The Pakistani delegation was led by Mian Habibullah, president of the Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce, and Raja Tariq Gilani, president of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce.